

Monday June 17 1996

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Algeria BY 2.50	USA 46.00	Portugal 65.00
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Algeria CA 2.50	USA 48.00	Portugal 67.00
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Algeria CF 2.50	USA 53.00	Portugal 72.00
Algeria CG 2.50	USA 54.00	Portugal 73.00
Algeria CH 2.50	USA 55.00	Portugal 74.00
Algeria CI 2.50	USA 56.00	Portugal 75.00
Algeria CJ 2.50	USA 57.00	Portugal 76.00
Algeria CK 2.50	USA 58.00	Portugal 77.00
Algeria CL 2.50	USA 59.00	Portugal 78.00
Algeria CM 2.50	USA 60.00	Portugal 79.00
Algeria CN 2.50	USA 61.00	Portugal 80.00
Algeria CO 2.50	USA 62.00	Portugal 81.00
Algeria CP 2.50	USA 63.00	Portugal 82.00
Algeria CQ 2.50	USA 64.00	Portugal 83.00
Algeria CR 2.50	USA 65.00	Portugal 84.00
Algeria CS 2.50	USA 66.00	Portugal 85.00
Algeria CT 2.50	USA 67.00	Portugal 86.00
Algeria CU 2.50	USA 68.00	Portugal 87.00
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Algeria CW 2.50	USA 70.00	Portugal 89.00
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NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 46,581

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Ultimatums follow blast which blew wreckage half a mile into the air Sinn Fein 'facing oblivion'



David Sherrock, Christopher Elliott and Rebecca Smithers

SINN Fein was warned last night that it is facing political oblivion after London and Dublin both demanded an immediate and irrevocable end to IRA violence in the wake of the Manchester bomb which injured more than 200 people and left a square mile of the city centre devastated.

The bomb, using between one and one and a half tons of fertiliser-based explosive, was the biggest ever to go off on the mainland, police said, with wreckage from the van blown half a mile into the air.

Police and anti-terrorist squad detectives disclosed last night that the seven and a half ton white cargo van used to carry the bomb, the heart of Manchester, was parked in Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, 15 hours before the blast. They made a fresh appeal for witnesses who may have seen it on Friday to come forward.

Police were hoping that leads could be provided by film from city centre security cameras as well as shoppers and up to 30,000 Euro 96 fans in Manchester for last night's match.

As city council surveyors and insurance assessors picked their way through the tons of crushed glass, shattered tiles and other debris to assess the damage and safety of buildings around the Arndale Centre, one senior officer said last night: "No one is likely to be shopping in that centre this year."

A handful of the 200 people injured in the blast were still in hospital last night, including a woman who had almost 300 stitches in her face during seven hours of surgery. "These injuries will have a life-long effect," said her surgeon.

With a gaping hole now opening up at the heart of the Northern Ireland peace process, the Irish government angrily demanded to know whether it had been conned over the republican movement's commitment to finding a peaceful settlement.

The Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, for the first time



The devastated premises of Marks and Spencer in central Manchester, near where the bomb exploded

PHOTOGRAPH: MARTIN RICKETT

publicly questioned the merit of further relations with Sinn Fein. The Irish government will meet tomorrow to review its links with the party.

"We had always felt we were dealing with people who were trying to bring the IRA into democratic politics, but now... we don't know who we're dealing with," he said on BBC TV.

The Sinn Fein president, Gerry Adams, failed to shed any light in a four-paragraph statement which did not even mention the Manchester bombing and made a call for "inclusive dialogue".

There was no further reaction yesterday from John Major, who said on Saturday

that he utterly condemned those responsible for the blast, but the Home Secretary, Michael Howard, said it raised questions about how seriously a fresh offer of a ceasefire could be taken.

"No one is going to be taken in. You can't have a situation in which there's a bomb in Manchester on Saturday and the announcement of a ceasefire on Monday and people allowed back into talks on Tuesday. The real world isn't like that."

The Irish prime minister John Bruton, already enraged by the recent IRA murder of an Irish police officer, which Sinn Fein had refused to condemn, signalled that he is

toughening up his conditions for allowing Sinn Fein a role in the peace talks.

"What is needed now is an unconditional and irrevocable IRA ceasefire," he said. "There can be no looking over the shoulder to the option of violence."

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, accused the British government of being too soft in their dealings with IRA and Sinn Fein, describing their approach as all carrot and no stick. "There's got to be some measures brought to bear on Sinn Fein/IRA, rather than this total passivity which seems to govern the security side of the Government's policy," he said.

The bombing was accompanied by a confusing series of signals in Belfast, with a number of media outlets contacted by apparent IRA dissidents claiming that its ruling army council no longer had the confidence of key areas and units.

The news agency Press Association was telephoned by an unidentified man who claimed: "We have called on them to stand down. We're not happy with them. They've shortchanged us. The Manchester attack wasn't sanctioned by them."

The failure of the IRA leadership to claim the Manchester bomb by late last night was also raising questions

about the state of its internal discipline.

But security sources in Belfast and London are sceptical that a split is emerging, and still believe that discipline will prevail and that, if anything, the IRA is prepared to go back to a full-scale campaign of violence to avoid such a development.

The last time Manchester was a target was in December 1992, when the IRA exploded two devices less than a mile from the scene of Saturday's explosion.

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"You don't carry out an indiscriminate bombing in a major city, injure 200 people and then claim this is a prelude to a commitment to peace"
Malcolm Rifkind

"We are having to review our relationship with Sinn Fein, with the republican movement as a whole, in the light of what has happened"
John Bruton

"We've never ruled interment out and we are prepared to do whatever we think will be effective in combating violence"
Michael Howard

"Whoever was responsible for such a wicked act must surely now realise that, whatever their objectives might be, they are embarking on a fruitless course"
Cardinal Hume

Russia's low poll turnout alarms Yeltsin camp

David Hearst and James Meek in Moscow

ASTARTLINGLY low turnout in Russia's presidential elections yesterday caused alarm in Boris Yeltsin's campaign team, who knew his communist opponents would bring their own voters out.

Less than two thirds of Russians headed Mr Yeltsin's call to vote in an election which has been portrayed as make or break for the country's reform programme.

With almost all polls closed, fewer than 62 million Russians had bothered to vote out

of a possible 105 million. Turnout was highest in so-called Red Belt areas such as the Urals where it stood at 60 per cent, and lowest in reformist strongholds such as St Petersburg and Moscow, with 44.7 and 55.9 per cent respectively.

At one stage, Mr Yeltsin's campaign team were so desperate for voters to go to polling stations that the prime minister, Viktor Chernomyrdin, appealed to Russians to stop watching live coverage of the Russia vs Germany football match in Manchester. Mr Chernomyrdin urged them not to trade their future "for an extra hour in front of your television sets or at your dis-

chas and vegetable plots". However, preliminary unofficial results for far-eastern regions had Mr Yeltsin narrowly in the lead over his main communist challenger Gennady Zyuganov, making a run-off likely in July.

Perhaps the biggest surprise from the far east was the strong third place showing for the moderate nationalist, Alexander Lebed, a former general. Mr Lebed would be the easiest of the other candidates for Mr Yeltsin to co-opt, and it is rumoured several posts have already been offered to him.

In the largest of the far-eastern regions, Primorski Krai, early results gave Mr Lebed as much as 19.2 per

cent, not far behind Mr Zyuganov with 24.5 per cent. Mr Yeltsin gained 29.6 per cent.

In Chechnya, where controversial local polls threatened a fragile peace deal with separatists, polling stations closed early after violent incidents.

Mr Yeltsin cast his vote in bullish mood. Asked whether he would let the communists win, he said: "Under no circumstances."

Mr Zyuganov said that all the votes would be his — and what mattered was that they were counted properly.

Mr Lebed growled: "I have come here to win."

Grigory Yavlinsky, another candidate, angry at Mr Yeltsin's domination of the media,

said: "This election is far from being equal, free and democratic. It is similar to an election under [the former Soviet leader] Leonid Brezhnev."

To stand a chance of defeating Mr Zyuganov, Mr Yeltsin would have needed to mobilise the 30 million uncommitted voters — and a poor turnout means that he had failed to do so, even with massive publicity. This spells problems for the future: by law all campaigning stopped on June 14, meaning Mr Yeltsin is much more constrained in how he can boost his support before July 7.

Votes cast under cynical eyes, page 7



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One of the wounded is led from the scene but others among the 200 injured were less fortunate, such as the woman (above) having glass picked from her back, while others suffered shock (right) PHOTOGRAPHS: MALCOLM CROFT AND PAOLO COCCO

Twin-track route to more violence

In the mind of the IRA, a ceasefire may represent not a goal but a tactical option



Timeline

9.15 am: Van given parking ticket.
9.41 am: Granada security guard receives telephone warning.
9.43 am: Guard dials 999.
9.55 am: Police order evacuation.
10.25 am: Army bomb disposal squad in Liverpool alerted.
11.10 am: Bomb disposal squad arrives on scene.
11.20 am: Bomb explodes in van outside Arndale centre.
12.00: Evacuation of area one mile square over further alert.
1.12 pm: Controlled explosion in Piccadilly Gardens of a package, later found to be harmless.

'Manchester Martyrs' threatened to set English against the Irish

IT IS NOT the first time that Manchester has been the scene of an outrage that has threatened to set the English against the Irish, writes David Pallister.

In September 1867, as members of the Fenian Brotherhood — the forerunner of the IRA — were invading Canada from the United States and rising up in Kerry, two Fenian prisoners were being escorted through Manchester in a police van.

A group of armed Fenian sympathisers attacked the van and in the ensuing mêlée, a police sergeant was killed.

Three men were arrested and tried. Michael Larkin, Michael O'Brien and W. P. Allen, were duly hanged on November 23.

For the English the three were the Manchester Martyrs; but to the Irish they were the Manchester

Martyrs, and they are still commemorated every year by a march.

Inevitably, the operation was celebrated in Republican folklore as an heroic event — like the great escape from the Maze prison in Belfast in 1983 and the hunger strikes of the early 1980s.

It even inspired the ballad, The Smashing of the Van, a favourite of the Irish writer, Brendan Behan.

Some historians have argued that the Manchester incident contributed to the prime minister, Mr Gladstone, moving to embrace the idea of home rule.

In the same year the Fenians tried to rescue a group of colleagues from Clerkenwell prison in central London. With gunpowder they blew up one of the walls. But it was another own goal: 12 prisoners died and 120 were maimed.



David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

Mr Adams's recent comments have focussed on the need to "rebuild" the peace process, suggesting that for Irish republicans it died along with the two men in the Canary Wharf explosion in February.

But the 200 shoppers injured in Manchester on Saturday point, in brutal terms, to the fact that the peace process resists rebuilding. The men and women who call the shots within the IRA do not believe there is enough on offer to merit a return to ceasefire.

It is true that IRA activity has been at a low ebb since the IRA's HQ staff based in Dublin, will have contributed to the absence of bombs.

But the hard truth is that IRA attacks, Republicans are philosophical about the outside world's hostility. How far they can disengage Washington's anger will be tested to

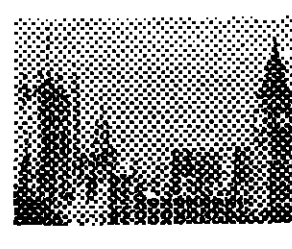
the limits. What we are seeing is a continuation and a refinement of the movement's twin-track strategy of the Armalite and the ballot box, although the ballot box wing was impressively strengthened last month by Sinn Fein's record 15.4 per cent electoral success. But there are sufficient senior figures within the republican leadership who

hold dual Sinn Fein-IRA membership to gouge holes in the theory that the militarists are in the minority.

As a demonstration of the twin-track strategy in action, we need only look back a month to when Martin McGuinness sent signals via the Jonathan Dimbleby programme on London Weekend Television about the pros-

pects for a restoration of the IRA ceasefire, saying he believed the IRA was open to persuasion if the decommissioning obstacle could be surmounted.

Within the same hour, however, another leading republican Brian Keenan was delivering a different message to republicans gathered at the Belfast graveside of IRA vol-



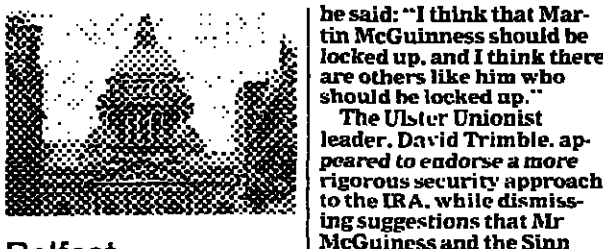
London

MINISTERS reacted with gloomy predictions that the peace process may have been terminally compromised and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, said interment to deal with the IRA had not been ruled out, writes David Pallister.

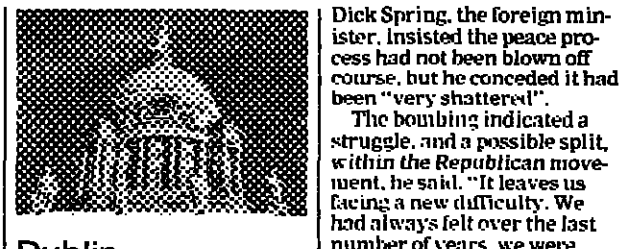
Malcolm Rifkind, the Foreign Secretary, said he did not think a restoration of the ceasefire by the IRA within 48 hours carried any credibility.

"You don't carry out an indiscriminate bombing in a major city, injure 200 people, and then claim this is a prelude to a commitment to peace. It doesn't carry the kind of conviction that is necessary."

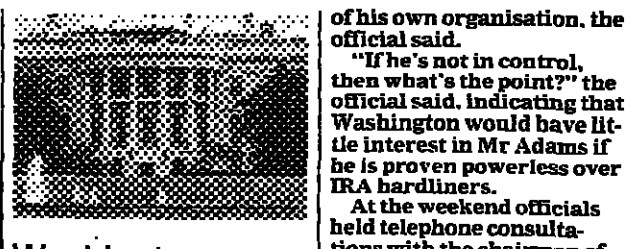
The bomb demonstrated how right both the British and Irish governments were to in-



Belfast



Dublin



Washington

speaking on the BBC's On The Record, Mr Howard said it was difficult to see how the IRA could now convince people that any ceasefire was genuine. "You can't have a situation in which there is a bomb in Manchester on Saturday and the announcement of a ceasefire on Monday and people allowed back into talks on Tuesday."

Andrew Hunter, chairman of the backbench Northern Ireland committee, told GMTV's Sunday programme that the bomb meant Sinn Fein had to be permanently excluded from the talks.

He said peace talks should continue. A settlement reached by those representing 85 per cent of the people of Northern Ireland was better than no agreement at all.

WHILE Northern Ireland nationalist politicians struggled to salvage some hopes for the peace process, the Ulster Unionists argued that Sinn Fein should be excluded even if there was a new ceasefire and that IRA leaders should be interned, writes David Pallister.

Ken Maginnis, the party spokesman, said that among those detained should be Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator and a former member of the IRA's army council.

He said it was no longer acceptable for Sinn Fein to expect to be invited to the talks even if the IRA declared a new ceasefire.

Calling on the British and Irish governments to intern the top echelons of the IRA,

he said: "I think that Martin McGuinness should be locked up, and I think there are others like him who should be locked up."

The Ulster Unionist leader, David Trimble, appeared to endorse a more rigorous security approach to the IRA, while dismissing suggestions that Mr McGuinness and the Sinn Fein leader, Gerry Adams, were struggling within the republican movement to prevent a return to violence.

"There is strong evidence that Mr McGuinness... is involved in IRA activities, and this business should be looked into," he said.

Reports that the Sinn Fein leadership was at odds with the IRA over use of force should be taken with a pinch of salt.

He added: "It is too convenient to say that, the day after a bomb."

Joe Hendron, the SDLP MP, said that interment would not be right: "It would be absolutely counterproductive."

Sinn Fein should still be allowed into the peace talks if a ceasefire was called, despite the bomb.

Dick Spring, the foreign minister, insisted the peace process had not been blown off course, but he conceded it had been "very shattered".

The bombing indicated a struggle, and a possible split, within the republican movement, he said. "It leaves us facing a new difficulty. We had always felt over the last number of years, we were dealing with leadership, people who were trying to bring the IRA into democratic politics."

But the situation could be very difficult in the sense that we don't know who we are actually dealing with."

Linking the Manchester bomb with the allegedly unauthorised killing by an IRA unit of a police officer in Adare, Co Limerick last week, he said: "There is a serious question mark over the cohesion and leadership of IRA/Sinn Fein. If we are now into freelance or breakaway groups, that remains a very serious threat to the stability of both the Republic of Ireland and the United Kingdom."

Mr Spring said on Breakfast With Frost on BBC TV that his message to the bombers was: "It is futile, absolutely futile. It won't solve anything."

of his own organisation, the official said.

"If he's not in control, then what's the point?" the official said, indicating that Washington would have little interest in Mr Adams if he is proven powerless over IRA hardliners.

At the weekend officials held telephone consultations with the chairman of the peace talks, George Mitchell, a former senator.

For the moment, the administration is sticking to its view of Mr Adams as a moderate engaged in a factional war with hardliners and of Saturday's bomb as an effort by IRA militants to keep him out of the Belfast talks.

"Beyond being sad and horrible, it's also very frustrating," said the source, admitting that aides privately fear Northern Ireland may go the way of the Middle East peace process: derailed by acts of terror.

The immediate headache would be a request by Mr Adams for a visa. British officials said yesterday that they would not lobby against this, confident that Washington would "do the right thing".

Butch

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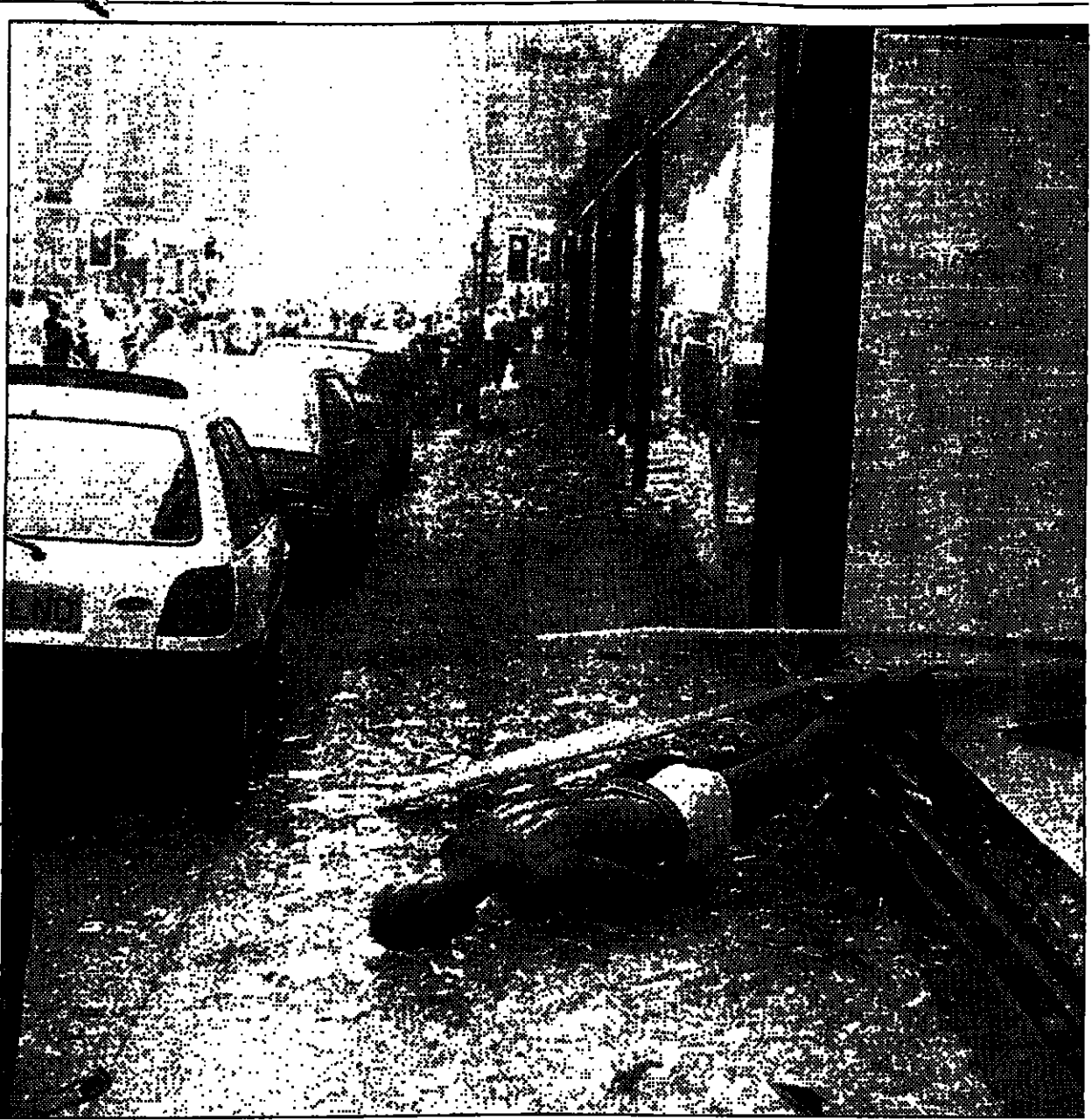
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Sally Field

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

50 minutes



Manxians stick together during the evacuation caused by the bomb, which exploded on the corner of Cross Street (centre) devastating Manchester's commercial heart (right)

PHOTOGRAPHS: DIETHELD EHLICHER, CHRIS THOMAS AND MALCOLM CROFT

M15 expected blast outside London

Police defend evacuation of 80,000 in face of blunder charges



Christopher Elliott, Duncan Campbell and Richard Norton-Taylor

SECURITY sources had predicted before Saturday's bomb that the IRA might move out of London for their next attack and that they were likely to strike as a result of recent arrests in Northern Ireland and

London. Intelligence had been sparse in the last few months but it had all been running the same way: the IRA wanted a spectacular before the talks and then perhaps there would be a resumption of the ceasefire. But the bomb still took the police and security services by surprise. Yesterday, police defended their evacuation in the face of suggestions that they had blundered in failing to clear the area quickly enough. The bomb exploded one hour and 30 minutes after the vehicle carrying it had been located and one hour and 35 minutes after the warnings had been received. The police argued that clearing 80,000 people, including many foreign tourists and Euro 96 fans, from a busy city centre cannot be done at high speed without creating a pan-

Assistant Chief Constable Colin Phillips said: "The fact that we managed to evacuate such a large area and no one was killed is an absolute credit to everyone involved." The fertilizer-based explosive of up to 1 1/4 tons was probably detonated with about two pounds of high explosive, perhaps Semtex. Home-made explosive using fertilizer is particularly effective at spreading the blast through dense narrow city streets full of glass-fronted buildings. Police say that the van which contained the explosive was seen in in Peterborough at 3pm on Friday, and are seeking anyone who saw it after that as it finished its journey to Manchester. They are particularly hopeful that football fans or tourists may have inadvertently captured the bombers on video film. In addition, police are going through a large amount of closed circuit television footage of the crowds in the city centre that day. They are also appealing to shopkeepers and any other businesses to retain all their security camera footage for the 18 days before the van was parked in Corporation Street. The police have named their hunt for the terrorists Operation Cannon. The white Ford Cargo truck with an orange cab which contained the bomb had the registration number C51A AGL and the words Jack Roberts Transport on the side.

It was spotted by a police officer at 10.02am on Saturday outside Marks & Spencer in Manchester. Greater Manchester police are working closely with anti-terrorist squad officers led by Commander John Greave, the head of the squad, who has the primary responsibility for co-ordinating the investigation of terrorist attacks on the mainland. One likely reason for the move to Manchester, according to security sources, is that the City of London has become increasingly impenetrable since the Bishopsgate bombing because of fears that one more big bang might not only damage the talks but also drive out foreign financial institutions. The prestige targets in the capital are also heavily fortified. While all forces in the country are officially on full alert, cities with little or no previous history of bombs are clearly more vulnerable. There was a massive police operation in the western ports to try to prevent a bomb being driven on to the mainland. It was also not a surprise that the blast should come shortly after a series of arrests in Northern Ireland and London in connection with the latest bombing campaign. Whenever an IRA member is killed in an operation or whenever there are arrests, the IRA has sought to respond to indicate that the organisation is not affected by what has happened.

M15, the leading counter-terrorism agency against the IRA in Britain, has not succeeded in infiltrating the organisation which, despite recent signs of internal disagreements, maintains a close and disciplined network of active service units. M15 concedes that there can be no security solution against the IRA and that, in the long term, only a political agreement will end, or significantly diminish, the threat of IRA violence. When the ceasefire was announced in 1994, M15 over-estimated the influence of Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president, on the IRA leadership. Some well placed agents in the British intelligence community criticised the Government for not responding sufficiently positively to what they regard as a highly significant initiative by the IRA. They say that John Major repeatedly sent the wrong signals, including responding to the Mitchell Commission by calling for elections to a new Northern Ireland forum. The agents say that frustration with Mr Major's government was reflected by Sinn Fein's success in the elections last month when it attracted record support of 40 per cent of the Northern Ireland nationalist vote. Meanwhile, there is a feeling among republicans that it was the Docklands bomb which prompted Mr Major to withdraw a firm date for June 10 for all-party talks on Northern Ireland.

Damage is put at £100m as police seal off city centre for up to a week

Michael Durham

PART of Manchester could be sealed off for up to a week, police said yesterday. Damage was estimated by one insurance assessor at more than £100 million. Yesterday a large area of the city remained cordoned off as police forensic experts and fire crews searched the area at the centre of the blast and engineers inspected damage. More than 400 businesses are affected. Later police allowed small groups of keyholders and residents into an outer security zone under escort to recover property and vehicles. However, an inner zone of about half a mile square remained sealed off. Chief Inspector Peter Harris of Greater Manchester police said that the damage was appalling. "The blast seemed to carry round cor-

ners and travel huge distances." He told a meeting of 500 shop keyholders and residents in Manchester Town Hall that the aim was to restore the city to normal as soon as possible. "But don't ask me how long that will take. I am sure that because of the state of some of the buildings there may be road closures for several days." Malcolm Sanford, Manchester council's chief executive, said surveys estimated that two thirds of the buildings in the outer cordon were badly damaged with masonry and glass hanging over streets. Police were also concerned about looters. Several people had been arrested. The 112,000 sq ft Marks & Spencer store, which bore the brunt of the blast, is one of the retail group's biggest and busiest. The £200 million Arndale Centre across the road contains most of the leading high street names among its 200 shops, including BHS, Littlewoods, WH Smith, Argos and Boots. Phil Clark, store director of Lewis's department store, said: "Shopkeepers in the central zone have been told to go home because there is no chance of getting in for a couple of days."

Keyholders allowed in spoke of acres of broken windows, collapsed ceilings, devastated shop fittings, goods strewn across floors and doors blown off hinges. A security manager at the Cooperative Retail Society said: "We had to knock out 83 panes of glass. There was glass all over the place and things were down. We expected a bomb after the police warning but nothing as big as this." A manager at a National Westminster Bank regional centre said: "Luckily we had put in bomb-proof glass, and damage could have been worse. Police only allowed us half an hour to collect essential files." In Albert Square, glaziers' vans queued all day to be allowed in. One glazier said: "We have been working through the night and now we are waiting to go in and finish the job. Police have told us it could be up to 48 hours." For some, there seemed no prospect of an early return. One man said he was unable to return to his flat. "I have been told I must get a pass from the council but I have no proof of identity with me so they won't give me one. All I've got is the clothes I'm wearing."

The most severely injured victim needed 300 stitches after 30 splinters of glass were removed from her face and will suffer side effects for the rest of her life

Martyn Naleas

THE most severely injured victim of the Manchester bomb, who needed 300 stitches after a seven-hour operation to remove 30 splinters of glass from her face, will never fully recover, her consultant said yesterday. The unidentified 45-year-old woman who was working in the city at the time of the blast remained in severe shock yesterday, said Peter White, consultant maxillofacial surgeon at the North Manchester General Hospital. He said: "She hasn't taken in what has happened. She is very swollen, she is finding it particularly difficult to eat and drink. I expect she will suffer from severe emotional strain and there will be life-long effects. She is going to find talking

to people, and relationships difficult in the future. But counselling will be available and there is a highly trained and effective out-patient care set up at the hospital." A few inches nearer the centre and the glass which fell on her would have split her head wide open. Mr White said it was one of the most serious lacerations he had seen in 19 years at the hospital. "It's similar to the pre-seat belt days when occupants (of vehicles) were hurled through windcreens," he said. The woman, who also received severe cuts to her arm and leg, would need further surgery, and possibly plastic surgery, he said. She had been conscious when she was brought into hospital. A large "tongue of tissue" had been lost from her forehead. This was caused by a large piece of glass. Her

other injuries were caused by splinters. At least 30 glass and wood splinters were removed from her body. Mr White added: "If you touched her arm you could feel multiple pieces of glass." Mr White described the surgery as "essentially putting a plaster back together" and said: "In another Manchester hospital, a pregnant woman, injured as she was shopping for the baby she expects in two or three weeks, denounced the bombers as "crazy and pathetic". Melaine Russell, aged 23, from Heywood near Rochdale, said: "I got a blast after it; it knocked me flying and I splattered. I came round in the ambulance. I was more worried about the baby than anything else as I couldn't feel her moving." Medical tests showed the baby was unharmed. "I think they (the bombers) are absolutely 'crazy', she said. It's pathetic. Innocent people have got hurt." The injured, and staff caring for them, at the 850-bed North Manchester General yesterday received a 45-minute visit from the Duchess of Kent. She said the 10 patients she had met on two wards were "quite extraordinary, but of course they were shocked and shattered." "Some are obviously frightened... It's like a nightmare that they think they are going to wake up from, but they are stoical and being very brave." Ten people, out of 79 originally admitted, were detained at the North Manchester General Hospital. All 70 patients taken to the other major hospital involved, the Manchester Royal Infirmary, had been discharged last night. More than 200 people were taken to six hospitals immediately after the blast.

Manchester's Irish brush off the verbal backlash but feel the sorrow

Christopher Elliott

AT the Manchester Irish Centre, where second and third generation emigrants bring their children for a family day each Sunday, there had been 40 abusive phone calls by lunchtime. The centre, at the heart of the largest Irish community outside London, was full of serious men and wary women talking over the events of the past 24 hours. "I was putting the washing out yesterday morning when it went off and it was the first time I had heard one since the fifties, when the customs posts used to go up back home," Dermot Maguire, the honorary secretary, said. Mr Maguire, aged 55, left County Monaghan in 1958 and has lived in the same house in Manchester ever since. He is a local government officer who rarely returns to Ireland now that most of his relatives have died but feels its sorrows keenly and is proud of the centre's work in promoting trade and good community relations. He brushed aside the calls: "We knew there would be a backlash but it's only a verbal one and we can handle it. It will blow over within a day or two." Among the lively families listening to Irish music in the main hall or having Sunday lunch in one of the upstairs function rooms there is little

outward sense of a politicised community. The Irish have been coming to Manchester, Salford in particular, since before the famine, first as weavers and then as economic migrants. They play an important part in the ethnic mixture of the city, so much so that on Saturday evening hours after the explosion, they received a visit from Richard Leese, the leader of the city council, and his deputy, Martin Pegg. Mr Maguire believes it was a gesture of solidarity. Last March the Irish president, Mary Robinson, came and two hours after her, Cardinal Basil Hume, Archbishop of Westminster. They are a settled community and they feel it. Pat Connors cradled his pint and said that after 30 years he felt embarrassed at what had happened to the Arndale centre. His friend, John Kelly, who was born in Co. Londonderry, had similar feelings: "I lived in Belfast between 1969 and 1971 and I came here to get away from all that." The younger members of the centre feel pulled both ways when a bomb explodes and makes their nationality an issue. Kevin is a crop-haired young man, one of eight brothers, who left Northern Ireland as an eight-year-old 18 years ago. He moved to Middlesbrough, where he acquired the accent but never quite left his background behind. "When I got to England they called me an Irish bastard and as I got older I was harassed by the police, who kept a close watch on me. But when I go back to Northern Ireland now they look at my hair, ask me if I'm a squaddie and call me an English bastard."

It takes a tremendous amount of balls to be a producer. I haven't had enough chutzpah, enough ambition. Sally Field G2 page 4

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The singer, not the song, captivates Welsh

Hague hits the right note at a minuscule Tory gathering where security men outnumbered delegates for political organisation which has virtually ceased to exist



Monday sketch
Matthew Engel

THE Welsh Conservative Party conference had started on Friday with a speech by the Prime Minister. It concluded on Saturday morning with speeches from William Waldegrave, John Gummer and William Hague. That might not sound a glamorous array to most people, but in Porthcawl it was enough to encourage a small group of locals and tourists to wait behind the security barriers outside the Grand Pavilion on the off-chance of seeing someone off the telly. A nice lady called Jeannette Groves was clutching a little camera. She could not quite remember his name, but she was surprisingly impressed by the presence inside of the Secretary of State for Wales, the most junior member of the Cabinet.

"I was here when Margaret Thatcher came," she said. "But I forgot to bring my camera with me and I thought 'There's silly'. So I'd like to get a picture of that young, you know, our man, what do you call him?"
"Hague," I said. "That's him," she said. "True blue, me. Always have been in our family. My grandmother used to say 'Put cornflowers on my grave, because they're blue'. I don't suppose," I said, "there are too many left like you round here?" "No," she said sadly. "Very few."
There were very few inside, too: about 200. The old observation that there were more security men than delegates was, for once, true. The town was ringed by roadblocks and the seafront rooftops filled with marksmen, stiffened to yellow alert by the bomb news from Manchester.
Even some of the police were shocked that such an exercise should be mounted for such a minuscule gathering. The Grand Pavilion in Porthcawl is more pavilion than grand, and the trick with organising Welsh Conservative conferences is not to book too large a hall.
However, it is fair to say that Jeannette Groves was not the only person impressed with Mr Hague. He concluded proceedings with an excep-



Welsh chorus... Delegates at Porthcawl join William Hague in singing Land of Our Fathers

tionally effective speech. Listing government achievements without straying beyond the limits of conference mendacity. Then he carried off the most difficult trick of all for an

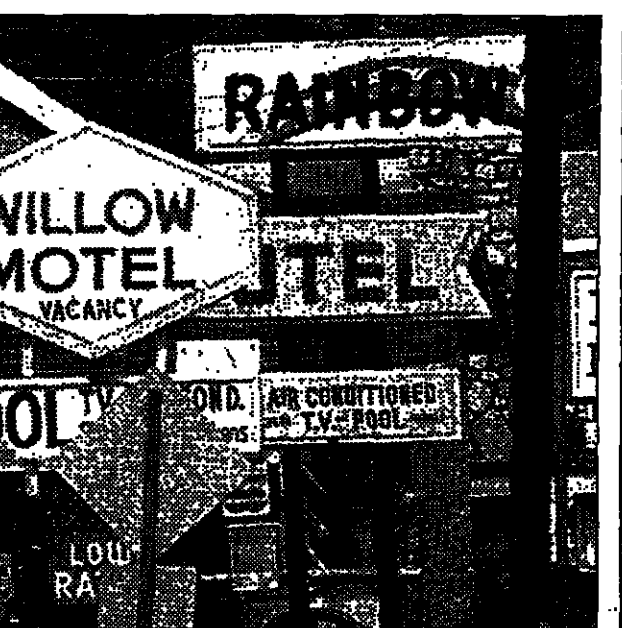
English Welsh Secretary, singing Land of My Fathers with everyone else, having learned the words: *Mae hen wlad fy nhadau yn arwyo i mi,*

Gulad beirid a chantorion, enwog o fri... And 29 more words that, to the English, constitute even more gibberish than most conference speeches. His prede-

cessor John Redwood did not bother with such details. Mr Hague only slightly spoiled the effect by giving a smug smile at the end to show he knew that we knew that he

knew. But as the delegates filed out they were muttering approvingly: "Very impressive." "He's certainly young enough." Mr Hague, who is 35, could certainly be a future party leader if (a) he can do something about the TV lights reflecting off his high forehead, (b) he does not continue to look and sound, as he ages, more and more like Harold Wilson, and (c) there is a party for him to lead.
In Wales in particular that is an open question. There are only six Welsh Tory MPs and not many more councillors. The majorities of the six range from 19 to 6,050 — and the largest belongs to Rod Richards, lately of the Welsh Office, and the News of the World.
Banished from the platform, forced to wear his identity tag and queue for tea with the hot potato, Mr Richards at least had the courage to turn up on Saturday, even though he might have been wearing a Scarlet Letter on his chest.
The letting was that, even in North Wales, adultery is forgivable in time and that he will be re-elected. It might not matter. The gloomiest Tories believe they will all be wiped out: the shrewdest think the six will be down to two: Mr Richards winning re-drawn Clwyd West and Roger Evans holding on to Monmouth.
Most delegates were beyond

such calculations. They were either elderly constituency chairmen, here to display a little loyalty and enjoy the traditional pipe-ups organised by the Welsh TV companies, or ambitious youths (some of them clearly from the party's "young birds" benches), standing in teeth-cutting seats with jumbo-sized Labour majorities, and with less chance of being elected in the immediate future than they have of winning the lottery jackpot.
Over much of Wales the Conservative Club continues to provide cheap beer and snooker tables, but as a political organisation has virtually ceased to exist. In some coastal places the Tories are almost wholly English.
Even in good times the Tory party has always been far weaker among the Welsh, with their dependence on chapels and corporatism, than in either England or Scotland, with its strong entrepreneurial traditions. And these are not good times.
But a vote against their English masters is as far as the Welsh ever go in the business of rebellion. In speech after speech, it was made clear that the full data will be published today at an emergency Press conference called by the fund and the Lancet.
The report states that research into the link is important as breast cancer is the most common female cancer in the world, and oral contraceptives have been used by more than 200 million women. "Even small changes in the relative risk of breast cancer would affect large numbers of women. For certain groups of past users, there may if anything be a reduction in the risk of breast cancer. These unexpected findings need to be confirmed."
As expected, the risk of breast cancer increases with age and is rare in younger women.



Above: Tennessee advert mania. Right: an unspoilt view of Thomas Hardy country. Question: which way will a deregulated Britain go?

Maev Kennedy and Geoffrey Gibbs
I think that I shall never see a billboard lovely as a tree. Perhaps, unless the billboards fall I'll never see a tree at all.
The situation lamented by the US humourist Ogden Nash could become a reality on British roads again. Rural roads could be blighted by a rash of advertising signs and hoardings, on a scale not seen since before the second world war if deregulation proposals succeed.
An alliance of conservation and local authority groups has written to the Government saying the current restrictions should be built on, not scrapped.
Over half the countryside is protected as an Area of Special Control of Advertising, where hoardings are banned and other forms of advertising controlled.
The Department of the Environment has proposed that these controls which have been in force since

1948 should be abolished or drastically cut. It is one of a series of deregulating proposals, including the size and number of permitted tourist signs, and serial advertising such as notices towed by planes and tethered barrage balloons. Only designated national parks and the Norfolk Broads will be protected.
Neil Sinden, campaigns officer of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said the controls were introduced because some rural roads had become lined with billboards.
"One of CPRE's earliest successes was the removal of unsightly advertisements," he said.
The letter is signed by Fiona Jones, director of CPRE, and backed by its Welsh equivalent, and the associations of district, metropolitan and county councils. She said: "The department risks undermining not only the environmental but also the economic value of the countryside."
PHOTOGRAPHS: JEREMY NICHOL (Tennessee) and DAVID MANSELL (Brentnallside Clump)



Women urged not to panic over pill link with cancer

Chris Millill
Medical Correspondent

WOMEN taking the pill were yesterday urged by the Department of Health, doctors and family planning groups not to panic over a new report that the contraceptive can cause a small increase in the risk of breast cancer.
The study — the largest ever attempted of the link between the pill and breast cancer — says that overall there is about a 1 per cent extra risk of a tumour occurring in pill users, and this risk lasts for 10 years after stopping the contraceptive.
The figure means that with some 26,000 cases of breast cancer each year in the UK, the pill might be responsible for an extra 950 cancers.
However, the study has also found that the pill can be beneficial for breast cancer, because if women do develop a tumour while taking the contraceptive or within 20 years of stopping it, the cancer is

less likely to have spread outside the breast, and so is more treatable.
Birth control experts and the Committee on the Safety of Medicines yesterday emphasised that, overall, the benefits of the pill outweighed its risks because it could cut the chances of other forms of cancer. The data were a confirmation of what was already known.
Doctors pointed out that the report was looking at cases, not deaths, and that women on the pill were far more likely to have breast cancer in the womb, an early, operable, stage than non-users, because they received extra screening.
The report is an amalgamation of some 90 per cent of the studies into the pill and breast cancer carried out across the world, in a pooling of data which statisticians call a meta-analysis, to obtain large numbers of people so trends become clearer.
The data cover 53,000 women with breast cancer compared with 100,000 without the disease in 25

countries. The study was carried out by Professor Valerie Beral and colleagues from the Imperial Cancer Research Fund's cancer epidemiology unit at Oxford.
It was due to be published in the Lancet on Friday, but a draft appeared in a Sunday newspaper. As a result the full data will be published today at an emergency Press conference called by the fund and the Lancet.
The report states that research into the link is important as breast cancer is the most common female cancer in the world, and oral contraceptives have been used by more than 200 million women. "Even small changes in the relative risk of breast cancer would affect large numbers of women. For certain groups of past users, there may if anything be a reduction in the risk of breast cancer. These unexpected findings need to be confirmed."
As expected, the risk of breast cancer increases with age and is rare in younger women.

Foxes 'born to die as hunts boost breeding'

Stuart Millar

ANIMAL rights campaigners have accused Prince Charles and other hunters of hypocrisy after a two-year investigation into the use of artificial earths, which encourage foxes to breed.
The League Against Cruel Sports claims to have discovered that at least 32 hunts are using artificial earths to increase numbers to guarantee kills. Investigators even found hunts feeding foxes on dead sheep and poultry to ensure a larger population.

In its journal, Wildlife Guardian, the league says: "For fox hunters to argue that hunting is necessary to control fox numbers when those same hunters are responsible for the increasing fox populations, is the height of hypocrisy."
Prince Charles is a frequent guest of the Beaufort hunt, where investigators say they found many artificial earths including some under construction. "It is therefore inconceivable that the prince is not aware that many of the foxes he assists in hounding to death have been bred to die

in the name of the sport," the league says.
The Thurkrow hunt in Suffolk and Cambridgeshire was also criticised. Its master, Edmund Vestey, whose family is among the 20 richest in Britain, is chairman of the Masters of Fox Hounds Association, which has denied that artificial earths are constructed.
Investigators claim to have discovered 26 artificial earths, 14 stick-piles for foxes to lie-up in and several feeding sites where piles of dead poultry were left out, even though leaving animal carcasses unburied is an offence.

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Teach failing grammar

Heads ba charter t spy on pu

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Teachers 'failing on grammar'

Donald MacLeod
Education Correspondent

CHILDREN'S lack of formal grammar teaching in English is leaving them confused in French and German lessons, according to a study published today.

Researchers found that English teachers themselves had a limited grasp of grammar and as a result 14-year-olds had not progressed beyond primary school definitions like "a verb is a doing word".

Foreign language teachers, in contrast, stressed certain aspects of grammar but there was no attempt to co-ordinate an approach to language across the curriculum, said a report for the Economic and Social Research Council.

Professor Martin Hughes, who co-ordinates the council's education research programme, said there had been considerable debate about whether grammar should be formally taught or acquired through actually using the language. Their research showed that in practice children were getting very mixed messages in different subjects.

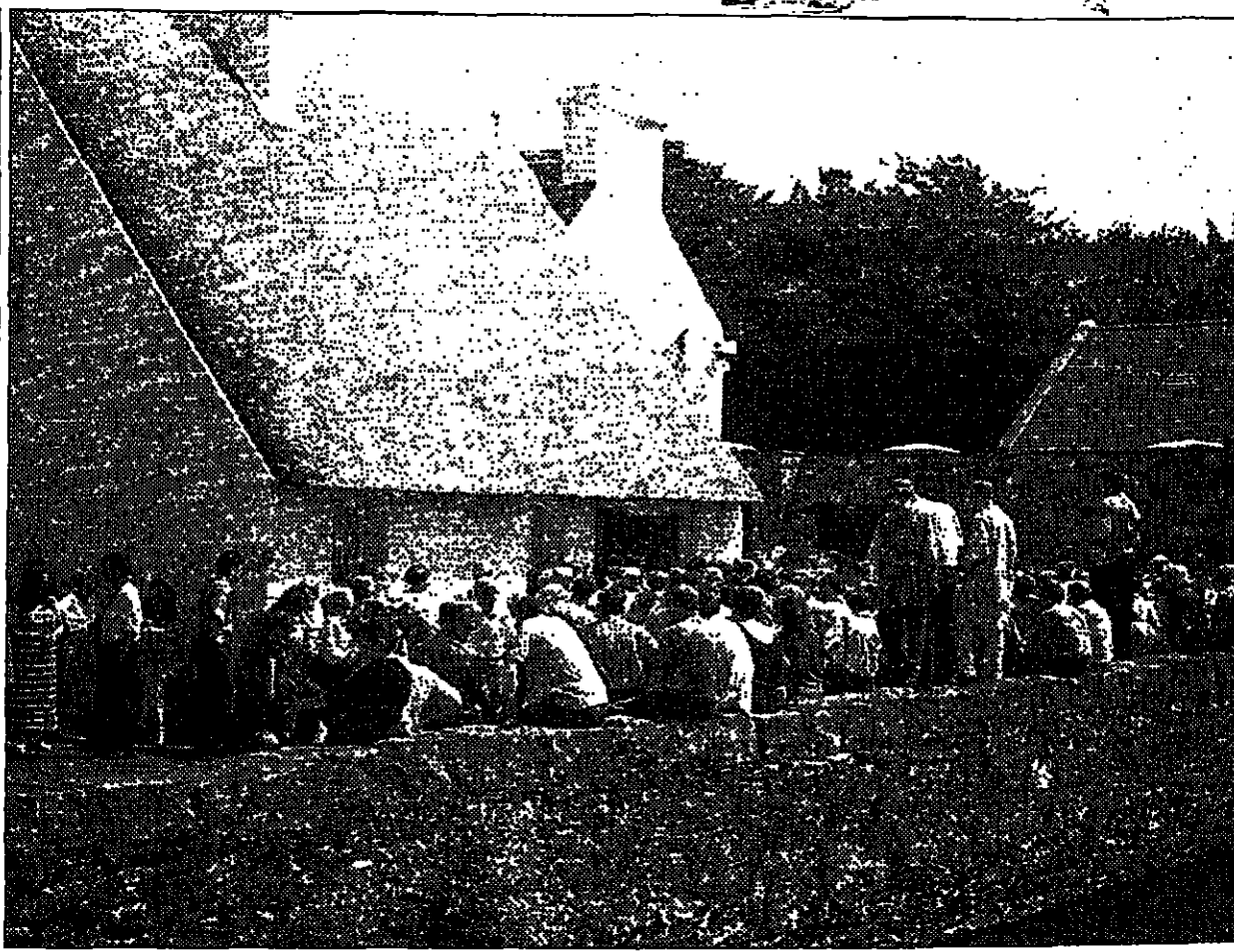
"Pupils' limited understanding of the grammar of their own language is a serious cause for concern."

English teachers were struggling to make sense of unclear policy statements. Coherent policy-making is badly needed in this area," said Rosamund Mitchell, of Southampton University, who observed English and foreign language lessons in three Hampshire comprehensives, said English teachers looked at language from a literary point of view or the style of different types of writing. They were happy with metaphors and similes but not formal grammar.

"I was full of admiration for the teachers. They were innovative and worked very hard. It's not their fault nobody has taught them any grammar... The French teachers we watched were working very hard on grammar."

Dr Mitchell said that a chance to improve grammar teaching was lost four years ago when the Government vetoed the Language in the National Curriculum project because traditionalists persuaded ministers that it was a threat to standard English.

The mixed messages pupils received meant their understanding of grammar was not high, said the report. Year 9 pupils, aged 13 to 14, were able to unscramble jumbled texts or baby talk but their ability to explain what they were doing was very limited.



Crowds await the opening of The Quiet Man museum in Cong, County Mayo, where the film was made. PHOTOGRAPHS: ALAN REVELL.

Double life of The Quiet Man

David Sharrock
Ireland Correspondent

JOE Mellotte was paid £3 a day as John Wayne's stand-in during the filming of the Oscar-winning *The Quiet Man* in the County Mayo village of Cong.

Forty-four years later, as the village opens a museum to cash in on the film's ever-increasing fans, the man from the west of Ireland still claims to be the best double of Hollywood's most famous Western star.

"There's no one like me. I'm one-of-a-kind," Mr Mellotte, aged 73, boasted this weekend as a £250,000 "heritage cottage" was opened.

The building is a replica of the Quiet Man's Moorrain home of Sean Thornton (John Wayne) the Irish prize-fighter who made good in the US but came home.

The romantic comedy has become a firm favourite on both sides of the Atlantic. Every July Mr Mellotte stages a John Wayne look-alike competition during the festival.

He beat seven other hopefuls to the job of shadowing Mr Wayne. It was 1952 and another world.

Cong was celebrating the arrival of electricity, but when the villagers discovered they would have to pay for it they demanded it be switched off again.

Mr Wayne "was a bit ratty because he was off the beer during filming. But he made up for it a week after and I learned to drink Scotch whisky with him."

Gerry Collins, 43, a local businessman who dreamt up the idea of the museum, said more and more people were coming to Cong because of the film. "They are known locally as Quiet Man crazies. In the main they are coming from Northern Ireland and the rest of Great Britain and America. But they are also coming from Japan and China especially to see where the film was shot. We know it word for word, inside out. It's on around the clock and in the summer we have to show it several times a day."

Joe Mellotte, John Wayne's stand-in during filming, signing autographs outside the museum at the weekend



Joe Mellotte, John Wayne's stand-in during filming, signing autographs outside the museum at the weekend

Heads balk at 'charter to spy on pupils'

Alan Travis
Home Affairs Editor

HEADTEACHERS are to be asked to report any "reasonably suspected" to be the children of illegal immigrants as part of checks being introduced by Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

The "snooper's charter" is contained in draft guidance from the Department for Education being sent out this week, but the Home Office says it is determined to press ahead despite protests when the scheme was mooted a year ago.

Ministers have no statutory power to require headteachers to report to the Home Office possible illegal entrants who try to send their children to school, but the "charter" is intended to maintain schools of children from overseas should strongly consider making a report.

The decision to go ahead with the plan provoked a fierce reaction from teachers. "It is the job of schools to report on illegal immigrants," said Michael Howard, the Home Secretary.

The guidance says: "Admission authorities cannot refuse an application on the grounds of suspicion about a child's status. Nor can they compel parents to show passports or answer questions about their immigration status."

"If, however, during the course of normal admission procedures, reasonable suspicion is aroused that an applicant may be in the UK without permission, consideration should be given to telling the Home Office Immigration and Nationality Directorate about those suspicions."

The guidance adds that "disclosure of information to prevent or detect an offence is permitted under the provisions of the Data Protection Act 1984. This covers offences under the immigration laws."

The check on school admissions is being introduced alongside tighter controls on the payment of social security, access to council housing, free NHS treatment and student awards.

John Sutton, general secretary of the Secondary Heads Association attacked the plan. "We do not think this is a function for schools... We do not want to be doing Michael Howard's dirty work for him."

He predicted that many teachers would not want to get involved in such work. "Schools started reporting people based on suspicions and hunches rather than factual information it would stir up tensions and problems which were none of the schools' business."

The National Association of Headteachers and the National Union of Teachers reacted strongly. Gareth James, a senior official, said immigration investigations should be carried out by some other arm of government.

Poor believe honesty is best policy

Stuart Millar

HONESTY may be an old-fashioned value, but a survey has revealed that integrity is alive and well even among the poor.

In the test, the results of which are published today, wallets containing £50, family photographs, a radio and two contact telephone numbers, were dropped in stations, car parks, supermarkets and shopping centres in towns and cities. The sites were monitored to see how people behaved. Of the 80 wallets, 65 per cent were returned.

Residents of Glasgow and Leamington Spa/Warwick emerged as Britain's most honest citizens, each handing in eight out of 10 wallets.

But people in Cardiff

Reader's Digest also revealed that poverty does not necessarily breed dishonesty, and prosperity is no guarantee of integrity. Many of the wallets were handed in by people in need of money, while some who kept the cash were well-dressed and seemingly prosperous.

Warwick test. Beverley Anderson contacted the number inside a wallet.

"I didn't think of keeping the wallet because it's not mine. I would feel a huge sense of guilt," she said.

But observers watched one man snatch up a wallet and pocket the cash before entering a building society and withdrawing £200.

In Cardiff, a man in his 20s picked up a wallet on the gangway of a floating Christian centre in Cardiff Bay. He read the card inside and told two girls with him: "He doesn't seem to be short of money."

In Liverpool, where six wallets were handed in, three fashionably-dressed teenage girls who found one ran giggling into a pub and ordered lager and Southern Comfort.

Place	Returned	Kept
Glasgow	8	2
Leamington Spa/Warwick	8	2
Basildon	7	3
London	7	3
Pontefract	7	3
Liverpool	6	4
Exeter	5	5
Cardiff	4	6
Totals	52	28

showed a disappointing tendency to take the money. Just four wallets were returned, of which two were picked up by visitors to the city.

Women proved more honest than men. Of 32 women who found wallets, 23 handed them in. Only 29 of the 48 male finders returned them.

The test, carried out by

News in brief

Labour set to back divorce changes

LABOUR is set to support the Government's troubled Family Law Bill at the critical third reading tonight, despite threats last week that it was prepared to add to John Major's woes by helping to kill off one of the most contentious pieces of legislation in recent history.

Party sources indicated yesterday that Labour was satisfied with the Government's pledge to accept amendments to strengthen aspects relating to domestic violence and the representation of children. The party had also "very strongly taken into account" the views of senior members of the Church of England and the Catholic Church, which urged it not to kill off the legislation just to score a political point.

The bill, which will introduce "no fault" divorce after an 18-month waiting period, has met opposition in the Lords from Tory rightwingers and among some sections of the legal profession. The Government is still resisting a Labour amendment relating to the powers of the Lord Chancellor and another on an early introduction of pension splitting, but the latter will be dealt with in today's debate by the social security minister Oliver Heald.

The Women's Aid Federation of England, Victim Support, Refuge and the Domestic Violence Intervention Project will today lobby MPs to demand further strengthening of the bill in the area of domestic violence. — Rebecca Smithers

Placebos match painkillers

DUMMY pills are just as effective at ending headaches as real painkillers, it was claimed yesterday after an experiment for a BBC health programme.

Two groups of headache-prone individuals were given either paracetamol, aspirin or a placebo without knowing which was which. One group consisted of actors on tour with the noisy musical *The Blues Brothers*. The other was made up of staff from a busy office. Both groups — 48 people in all — kept a diary for four weeks, noting when their headaches appeared and stopped, and when they took a pill.

The results, to be shown on BBC1's *Watchdog* Healthcheck programme tonight, showed a significant number of people reported their pain cured by the placebo tablets, about the same as that from among those who took paracetamol, though the placebos took slightly longer to have an effect.

Dr Anne MacGregor, director of the City of London Migraine Clinic, said studies that have looked at chronic daily headache suggested that in 70 per cent of cases the cause was due to the frequent use of painkillers, at least six of which listed headaches among their side-effects.

Czechs lead in card theft

THE Czech Republic is one of the worst places in Europe for credit and cash card theft from tourists, according to figures out yesterday. The country did not feature in the 1994 league table of the worst five countries for card thieves, but has risen to second place in the 1995 list, said the card-loss reporting service Card Protection Plan.

Spain was the worst, followed by Portugal, Italy and France after the Czech Republic. The capital, Prague, was the fourth in the league of cities in which travellers' cards were most likely to be stolen. Barcelona was the top city for card theft, with Florence second, Madrid third and Moscow fifth.

The company reckoned that from June to September last year more than 200,000 British cards went missing in Spain alone.

70pc want elected mayors

SEVEN in 10 people are in favour of directly-elected mayors to lead their councils, but most councillors oppose the idea, academics said yesterday. The result will encourage Tony Blair, who is championing the change, at least for big cities, but the Labour leader faces a long struggle with his party's municipal wing over the issue.

Thousands of interviews conducted by a team at Strathclyde University, Glasgow, in 1994 and 1995, indicate just 16 per cent of councillors back the idea. Among Labour councillors the figure is 11 per cent. More than half the public also want local referendums, another reform being considered by Labour nationally, but most councillors are opposed. The interviewers found similar public backing (55 per cent) for elected regional government.

The Strathclyde academics interviewed 2,200 members of the public, 780 councillors, 570 members of training and enterprise councils and 335 members of health authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. — James Melkbe

Minders 'ignorant' on asthma

CHILDMINDERS and playgroup leaders have little or no knowledge of how to deal with asthma attacks even though one in seven of the under-fives they care for suffers from the illness, the National Asthma Campaign says today. The charity has carried out a survey of more than 3,000 carers which found 70 per cent had received no asthma care training and a third said they would not know what to do if a child's asthma symptoms got worse.

The National Asthma Campaign is calling for a review of the training given to carers, and has launched a poster giving information about how to deal with an attack. The survey found that most carers wanted training. — Chris Millill

Lottery rollover

THERE were no winners of this week's £29.4 million National Lottery jackpot, creating a £20 million rollover, Camelot said. The numbers were 13, 18, 25, 44, 46, 47 and the bonus number was 34. Thirteen people win £249,105 each for five numbers and the bonus number.

THEATRE LONDON

ADELPHI *THE LLOYD WEBBERS' MASTERPIECE* "All 21 Journal Sunsets"

BOWDOY *SUNSET* Winner of 7 Tony Awards

BEST MUSICAL *RENT* "A Story of Love, Life and Loss" Winner of 5 Tony Awards

APOLLO VICTORIA *THE LLOYD WEBBERS' MASTERPIECE* "All 21 Journal Sunsets"

STARLIGHT EXPRESS "The Musical" Winner of 10 Tony Awards

THE MUSICAL *THE LLOYD WEBBERS' MASTERPIECE* "All 21 Journal Sunsets"

ANGEL MEN "A Musical About the World's Most Famous Men"

TWELVE "A Musical About the World's Most Famous Men"

DON'T DRESS FOR DINNER "A Musical About the World's Most Famous Men"

THE REDUCED SHAKESPEARE COMPANY "The Complete Works of William Shakespeare" Winner of 10 Tony Awards

GREASE "The Musical" Winner of 10 Tony Awards

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THE WOM

Scandal deepens as Whitewater report reveals her 'pivotal role' in conspiracy to conceal evidence

First Lady faces cover-up charge

Jonathan Freedland in Washington

HILLARY Clinton faced the gravest accusation levelled against her in the Whitewater affair yesterday when Senate Republicans formally charged that she ordered a cover-up after the death of Vince Foster, the White House lawyer and a close friend.

As the Clinton administration confronted deepening scandals on at least three fronts, leaked copies of the Senate Whitewater committee's final report claimed she played a "pivotal role" in a conspiracy to conceal crucial evidence from federal investigators.

In a scathing condemnation, the senators accused Mrs Clinton of directing her

aides to keep officials and police from searching Foster's office in the hours after his suicide in July 1993, fearing they would find politically sensitive documents.

In 700 pages, the committee's Republican majority cites "a pattern of concealment and obstruction" by the White House with Mrs Clinton at its centre. Until now Republicans have only implied a guilty role for the First Lady, directing most charges at her subordinates.

But the final report — due to be published tomorrow — alleges that as soon as Mrs Clinton learned of Foster's death, she moved to ensure papers relating to the Whitewater affair and to the controversial 1993 sackings of White House travel staff would not be discovered.

She constructed an elaborate scheme to keep them

Dole may abandon Republican war against affirmative action

THE Republican presidential candidate, Bob Dole, may drop plans to attack affirmative action in California, writes Christopher Reed in Los Angeles.

For his visit to the state today, Mr Dole's issues do not include opposition to the policy of favourable consideration for ethnic

minorities and women. During the primary election campaign, Mr Dole firmly endorsed a proposition to abolish affirmative action in the state.

The issue has declined in its appeal to Republicans partly because white women have realised how much they have benefited. Under wraps, the report says, ordering Maggie Williams, her chief of staff, to search Foster's office that night Ms Williams was later spotted removing a box of papers, the report adds. Finally, Mrs Clinton "dispatched her trusted lieutenants to contain any potential embarrassment

or political damage" by restricting investigators' access to Foster's office.

The charges have no legal weight, but will inflict serious political damage on the White House as President Clinton steps up his campaign for reelection. Even before the report's publication, polls

showed a majority of Americans believe the Clintons are guilty of wrongdoing. The latest survey found Mr Clinton's lead over Bob Dole, his Republican rival, slashed from 22 points to six.

The Clintons will be mired in Whitewater for most of this week. After formal publication of its report, the Senate committee is likely to recommend criminal prosecutions against key officials accused of lying to protect Mrs Clinton in the Foster cover-up.

They include Ms Williams, Susan Thomases, a close confidante of Mrs Clinton's, and Bernard Nussbaum, Foster's former boss.

Today the earlier phase of the Whitewater affair comes under scrutiny in a court in Little Rock, where two Arkansas bankers are accused of illegally funnelling up to \$13,000 (about \$2,500) to Mr

Clinton's 1990 gubernatorial election campaign.

For the second time, Mr Clinton will be called as the star witness, recording his testimony on videotape. In the first Whitewater trial, concluded last month, the original partners in the Whitewater land deal were convicted of \$3 million fraud.

The latest Clinton scandal also deepened yesterday, as secret service officials rebutted the White House explanation for its past request of more than 400 secret FBI files on leading Republicans.

The White House claimed it requested the files by accident, working from an out-of-date secret service list detailing those allowed access to the executive mansion. But the secret service has told Republican investigators it could not have produced such a list, because it is constantly updated.



One way forward... Demonstrating Japanese students snake along a Tokyo street yesterday. More than 500 protested against a nuclear test by China. PHOTOGRAPH: ITSUO INOUE

Likud in crisis as hawk Sharon rejects offer of cabinet post

Shyam Bhatia in Jerusalem

ISRAEL'S super-hawk and former defence minister, General Ariel Sharon, has triggered a crisis in the Likud party by turning down the housing and construction portfolio in Binyamin Netanyahu's new government.

The 130 members of Israel's new Knesset (parliament) will be sworn in this morning. Forty are entering parliament for the first time. But last night it was far from clear whether Mr Netanyahu would be able to name the 18 members of his cabinet.

Gen Sharon, aged 70, who put his own ambitions aside to allow Mr Netanyahu a crack at the top job, has told colleagues he will accept only a job that befits his status as an elder statesman of the right-wing Likud.

Last night he told Mr Netanyahu he would accept either the defence or finance

ministries. Gen Sharon lost his job as defence minister in 1982 after a national commission of inquiry held him indirectly responsible for the Sabra and Shatila massacre in which Palestinian refugees were butchered by Israeli-supported Christian militias.

Mr Netanyahu has surprised party colleagues by shunning off Gen Sharon's tantrum and offering the prestigious finance ministry to the governor of the Bank of Israel, Yaakov Frenkel, who has close ties with the outgoing Labour government of Shimon Peres.

Three other Likud luminaries have also turned down cabinet jobs that did not come up to their expectations. The three — Dan Meridor, Benny Begin and Moshe Katzav — are often referred to as the "princes" of Likud and could conceivably challenge for the party leadership in future.

The absence of Gen Sharon and the three princes from

the cabinet is an embarrassment for Mr Netanyahu, but has not affected his negotiations with coalition partners such as the ultra-orthodox religious parties and Russian immigrants.

Outraged Likud loyalists have been reminded by Mr Netanyahu's aides that he was elected directly by the people and not by the party. His loyalties are accordingly with the larger national constituency.

Likud officials still do not rule out the possibility of Mr Netanyahu joining hands with Mr Peres to form a national unity government. In such an event the prime minister could dispense with the likes of Gen Sharon, as well as the religious parties.

One of the most urgent issues that Mr Netanyahu will have to confront is the escalating violence in Gaza and the West Bank. Yesterday an Israeli policeman was shot and killed in the West Bank village of Bidya.

Witnesses say Aryeh Alush, aged 40, from the West Bank settlement of Ariel, died after a Palestinian gunman opened fire on him and his wife and their baby son walked into a Palestinian-owned toy shop.

Alush's wife was also hit, but was said not to be seriously hurt. The baby was unharmed.

The Israeli army imposed a curfew on Bidya, home to 6,000 Palestinians, as troops searched for the killer.

Under the terms of the Israel-PLO agreement, Bidya is part of the rural area in the West Bank, defined as Zone B, where the Israeli army is still responsible for security.

This was the second recent incident of its kind. A week ago armed Palestinians on the outskirts of Jerusalem opened fire on a car driven by a young Israeli couple, killing them instantly. Their seven-month-old baby, strapped to the back seat, survived without a scratch.

Owen Bowcott in Diyarbakir

AT LEAST four Kurdish prisoners in Turkey have lapsed into a coma and scores more are said to be close to death after 50 days on hunger strike.

More than 200 inmates, mostly members of the separatist Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK), have been refusing food for periods of up to seven weeks in protest at conditions in the country's jails.

Hundreds of others have gone on token hunger strikes at up to 30 prisons.

The culmination of the action has coincided with a sharp escalation in the army's campaign against the PKK. All last week, Turkish troops bombarded villages in northern Iraq alleged to be PKK training camps and dropped paratroopers across the border in "hot pursuit" operations.

Tanks, artillery and armoured personnel carriers could be seen gathering at barracks on the road south this weekend. The route is already congested with thousands of lorries queuing up to trade food for fuel in Zakho, the forward base for the allied al-Biruti in Kurdish areas of northern Iraq.

Turkey's defeated caretaker government is still grappling with the problem of whether or not to extend the mandate for the United Nations-sanctioned Operation Provide Comfort.

Two Turkish air force bases, Incirlik and Pinciklik, in the south, are being used by American, British, French and Turkish aircraft to enforce the no-fly zone which is keeping President Saddam Hussein's army at bay.

A decision is due by the end of the month, but Turkey is becoming increasingly anxious about the humanitarian operation, fearing the creation of a permanent Kurdish state on its border.

Tension in the region has also been heightened by a series of bombs in neighbouring Syria. Turkey's military intelligence, MIT, has been blamed for the attacks. The leader of the PKK, Abdullah Ocalan, has lived in Syria for the past decade.

As well as using Iraq and Syria for launching attacks on Turkey, the PKK has along with leftwing paramilitary groups, supported the growing hunger strike.

The prisoners' list of demands include the resignation of Mehmet Agar, the justice minister and a former chief of police; talks between the government and the PKK; an end to torture during interrogation; and the banning of attacks by informers on detained suspects.

Last Wednesday a delegation of lawyers met the government in the hope of ending the protest but, although they were told some demands could be met, there would be no ministerial resignations. The offer is, reportedly, still being considered by the inmates.

The hunger strikers, both men and women, have been taking water and some sugar. Last week two men tried to set their clothes alight in jail in Diyarbakir, eastern Turkey, and 19 of the most seriously ill were transferred to Antep prison.

Syrian hunger strikes have also been staged by mothers of prisoners. In Diyarbakir, women occupied the offices of a political party. One of the mothers, Meliha Genc, who said her son, Turan, aged 21, had been jailed for distributing leaflets four years ago, was worried he would die.

"There is a PKK ceasefire," she said. "But the Turkish army keeps fighting. We want peace not war, the killing must stop. Our children will die."

The government insists it has offered the prisoners full medical treatment.

News in brief

Burundi troops kill 70 in Hutu massacre

AT LEAST 70 Hutu civilians were massacred by Burundian troops on Thursday, community workers said.

Locals in the hills near the Kaniga River in the north-west part of Gitega province have compiled a list of the names of 40 of the dead — who included one member of the Twa ethnic group — which they gave to the workers. They said the other victims were new to the area and could not be identified.

An estimated 175 soldiers in six trucks arrived on Kibimba-hill armed with automatic weapons and bayonets and began the five-hour slaughter, the locals said.

"A Hutu woman told me how she and her children hid in coffee bushes and watched horrified as the soldiers hunted down their screaming victims, shooting or bayoneting them and throwing their bodies in the river," one of the foreign community workers said.

A senior Burundian military officer said he had not heard of the reported massacre.

Meanwhile, in Rwanda, the United Nations reported that 34 local government officials were killed in the first five months of the year. The UN human rights office said 37 deaths were in areas bordering Salva in Burundi, where Rwanda's Tutsi-led army is fighting Hutu rebels. — *Reuter, Bujumbura and Kigali.*

Awami League set for power

BANGLADESH'S communist Awami League, which emerged as the single largest party in last week's election, is poised to take power after 21 years in opposition.

The league's prospects brightened at the weekend when the centre-right Jatya Party, which came third in the polls, formally agreed to back its effort to form the next government.

In a letter to the president, Abdur Rahman Biswas, the Jatya Party wrote: "We urge you to invite the Awami League to form the government without further delay." President Biswas is expected to do so next week.

Although it has not publicly made its support conditional, the Jatya Party is known to have reached an understanding with the league that, once in power, it would help secure the release of the Jatya chairman, Lieutenant General Hussain Muhammad Ershad, who is serving a 13-year sentence for corruption. The Awami leader, Sheikh Hasina, welcomed the Jatya Party decision but made no formal commitment on General Ershad. "Law will take its own course," she said. — *Arshad Mahmud, Dhaka.*

Simeon II hints at political role

BULGARIA'S former king, Simeon II, ended a triumphant three-week tour of his country and flew back into exile yesterday, but vowed to return, hinting he may take a higher political profile.

Boosted by big crowds and rapturous receptions, the former king told reporters: "God grant that we see each other again very soon," before flying back to his home in Madrid. Supporters have urged him to return after 50 years in exile to lead the country, and possibly run in presidential elections due at the end of the year.

His refusal to rule out an election bid, saying he would carry out "a deep, mature and fundamental assessment" of the implications of his visit and urged the country's "political class" to do the same. In implied criticism of the socialist government yesterday, the former king called for privatisation of state-run firms to be speeded up, and for more active measures to attract foreign investment. — *Julian Borger, Sarajevo.*

Search for refugee ship fails

A SHIP carrying hundreds of Liberian refugees was missing and possibly in distress yesterday off the West African coast, but bad weather blocked search efforts.

A five-hour aerial search off Ivory Coast and Ghana on Saturday failed to spot the Russian freighter *Zolotitsa*, which has been at sea for three weeks after sailing from Monrovia.

On Saturday, the French aid agency Médécine Sans Frontières was told that maritime officials had picked up a distress signal from an unidentified Russian boat off the Liberian coast.

The *Zolotitsa*, which has about 450 civilians on board, has been refused permission to dock by several West African countries. The passengers are believed to be short of water and food, and after 21 days at sea, sanitary and health conditions are feared poor. — *AP, Abidjan.*

Iraq blocks UN inspections

UNITED Nations inspectors left Iraq yesterday after guards barred them from entering sites suspected of containing illegal weapons material. The chief inspector, Nikita Smidovich, said the deadlock was the most serious in five years of inspections.

The team was denied access to three sites and allowed only partial entry to a fourth, he said.

The head of the UN special commission, Rolf Ekens, will arrive in Baghdad on Wednesday to present the Security Council's demand that inspectors be allowed access to all sites they consider suspicious. — *AP, Baghdad.*

Storms kill over 100 in India

The streets of Madras were awash with flood water after a tropical cyclone and heavy rainfall hit southern India yesterday.

At least 110 people have been killed and thousands driven from their homes. The dead were spread across three states — Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka — and more than 190 people, mostly fishermen, were reported missing.

"We have already evacuated about 5,000 families from the region. But if the rain continues we might have to remove more," said H. S. Brahma, the relief commissioner in Andhra Pradesh. The storm, which brought down thousands of telephone and power lines, was moving north towards Puri, a seaside resort in Orissa, but was expected to weaken in intensity. — *Reuter, Hyderabad.*

Fans killed as wall collapses

AT LEAST 15 people were feared dead yesterday when a wall collapsed on fans leaving a soccer stadium in the Zambian capital Lusaka, after a match between the national side and Sudan.

Witnesses said the wall collapsed at the end of the match when fans surged towards a gate which appeared to be blocked. "There were people pushing to get out, and others pushing to get in, and the wall just collapsed," said one. — *Reuter, Lusaka.*

Critics round on Arafat to secure release of human rights activist

Jessica Berry in Jerusalem

SOME of Yasser Arafat's critics are pressuring him to release a leading human rights activist.

A Palestinian secret military court on Friday or-

dered Iyad al-Sarraj, who holds a British passport, to be detained for 15 days for allegedly assaulting a police officer while in prison awaiting trial on drugs charges.

Mr Sarraj, an outspoken critic of the Palestinian president's self-rule regime, and head of the Palestinian Independent Commission for Human Rights, (PICHR), was also detained last month after criticising Mr Arafat.

Last week he was charged with drug possession, but the drugs charge was not upheld in court. The assault charge has been ridiculed by the appearance in court alongside Mr Sarraj of the police officer he is accused of attacking. The officer had a bandaged fist.

According to Raji Sourani, Mr Sarraj's lawyer, the new higher education minister, Hanan Ashrawi, has been involved in trying to secure Mr Sarraj's release.

Dr Ashrawi, who accepted the ministry on Friday, said that Mr Arafat was "calming down". A dogged critic of Mr

Arafat, she said she spent the weekend ordering him to deal with the "excesses of the security system" and show respect for basic human rights.

She said her criticism was prompted by Mr Arafat himself. "Arafat told me," she said, "I should put your money where your mouth is. You are always criticising me, and when I ask you, you turn me down."

Mr Sarraj's release will indicate how much influence is now wielded by Dr Ashrawi, who once held Mr Sarraj's post at the PICHR.

Yesterday the high court in Gaza ordered the general prosecutor, Khaled al-Eidreh, to give a written response within five days on why Mr Sarraj was denied access to his client and the prosecution's files.

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He turns 50 in October and still manages to look like a wholly benign Ben Elton, especially when peering through his little round specs. Cameron Mackintosh profile G2 page 6

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

As the world awaits the result of the Russian presidential election, keen observers at polling stations everywhere were struggling to ensure the vote was clean. James Meek in Podolsk reports

Votes cast under cynical eyes of party

NO ONE was going to trick Nikolai Kuzmarov. If anyone cheated during this election, it was not going to be because the Communist Party election observer had taken his eyes off it for a moment. Mr Kuzmarov had been observing those ballot boxes since they were opened, shown to be empty, and sealed early yesterday morning. He would continue to observe them until they were emptied, the votes were counted and he had a stamped copy of the results.

Mr Borodkin said he expected a fair election, but not because there were so many Communist Party observers. "For members of the local election commission, the risks of falsification are too high to run. The idea of mass falsification is hysteria on the part of people who are afraid to lose," he said. At another polling station in Podolsk, the Communist observer, 71-year-old Alexander Roslekov, was joined by Yulia, aged 23, from the liberal Yabloko movement of Grigory Yavlinsky. Once the preliminary count was completed at the polling station, both observers would receive authorised copies of the result sheets, or "protocols", before the results were taken to the town's central electoral commission with a police escort, to be tallied for the region's total results. "If the figures don't add up, it means there's been a falsification," Yulia said. Podolsk, a town of about 200,000, is where Moscow's fervent capitalist culture intersects with the conservative "Red Belt" of the hinterland. Its centre buzzes with kiosks, markets and shops but its 66 once-proud factories, many linked to the defence sector, have been stricken by the slump.

The town's huge sewing-machine plant is trying to restore its fortunes by assembling a new model from German parts. The town voted heavily in favour of the Communist Party in the parliamentary elections last December. In some districts, the local deputy, Yuri Voronin, polled more than 50 per cent. Although the local authorities are technically pro-Yeltsin, they have the support of local Communists who believe they are being forced to toe the Kremlin line. While the Communists feared cheating by the Yeltsin camp, Yabloko supporters said the town was controlled by Mr Zyuganov's people. "This is a communist town," said Tamara Soldatkina, who heads a team of observers. "We put up our posters of Yavlinsky and by the same evening they've been torn down."



Easier than it looks... One Muscovite explains the ballot paper to another during voting in the presidential election. PHOTOGRAPH: MICHAEL YASSUKOVICH

Gennady Zyuganov, the Communist challenger in the Russian presidential election, had promised a countrywide army of observers to prevent cheating and in Podolsk, an industrial town south of Moscow, all polling stations had at least one elderly man in a dark suit, watching intently as the democratic process went quietly ahead. "We're not giving any advice, we're not interfering. We're just watching and that's all," Mr Kuzmarov said at the polling station in Podolsk's House of Culture. "I will be here continuously. I don't think there will be falsifications."

The head of the local administration, Victor Borodkin, stood nearby. He was backing the president, Boris Yeltsin, but there was no sign of tension between two men who — according to Mr Yeltsin's scenario for Russia in the event of a Zyuganov victory — would be on opposite sides of the barricades in a civil war.

According to Mr Sosinkov, however, the presence of observers would help to prevent worse fraud. "The observers do help. If there weren't any, the violations would be massive. But if someone has a clear enough intention to cheat, they can do it under any amount of observation."

Wine-growers drink to a good year at French vintage festival

Paul Webster in Bordeaux joins the experts and VIPs at a chateau gathering to predict the quality of the '96 harvest

When you open the first bottle of 1996 Bordeaux in about three years from now, bear the following scene in mind from the weekend gathering of regional wine-growers summoned to predict the quality of this year's vintage. From the great front doors of an elegant mansion in the Haut Médoc near the Atlantic, scores of sommeliers in aprons, waistcoats and white shirts poured on to the lawn in 27C, each bearing a bottle of eight bottles of Chateau Lanesan 1975. "This was the most solemn moment of the annual Fête de la Fleur, when bringing out the old also rang in the new. Finished with liquid memories of an exceptional year, experts representing the region's 14,000 wine-growers gave a promising verdict on the fresh buds and blossom that in about 100 days will be harvested as wine grapes. The silent invasion of veteran cellarmen was enough to bring lunchtime conversation to a halt, even at the VIP table where Pierre Trudeau, chairman of Bordeaux's inter-professional council, the CIVB, that unites growers and dealers in a 700-million bottle industry earning France about £1.5 billion a year. Amid general hilarity created by lavish consumption of seven other vintages before, during and after a celebration luncheon, some growers were drowning their sorrows. Nuclear test protests have cost Bordeaux about £24 million in lost orders. 45-year-old chivalrous order in which commanders, in academic-style robes, bestow medals on anyone ready to defend Bordeaux's supremacy. The pseudo-religious ritual held in the Lanesan vineyards was part of a complex esoteric code that selects most cuts to share. A select few guests had spent the previous day being offered the cypher key in a

laboratory-like classroom. There a lecturer warned that they would not get the best out of the glass until they could detect 1,200 potential aromas — from burnt caramel to cat's pee — catalogued by a famous Bordeaux "nose" in the 1980s. Drinkers ready to pay £300 for a similar initiation can then decent what sounds like pretentious mumbo-jumbo to the unbeliever — or just take the advice of Nicholas Faith, British editorial director of L'Amateur de Bordeaux, on how to recognise a good wine. "Watch how many glasses I drink," he said, attacking the 1975 jeroboam. But there was no need for a codebook to understand Pascal Vincent, the chateau's chief grower, as he examined the stems of tiny would-be grapes. He had rarely seen such uniformity in blossom growth, setting ideal conditions for a big crop and a short harvest. "If it rains a little soon, then this will be an exceptional year," he said. Good news for growers, but not necessarily for drinkers. Hopes of a great vintage after last year's perfect summer sent prices up by about 20 per cent.

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Dealer 'finds Joan of Arc's armour'

Alex Dunal Smith in Paris

FRENCH antiques dealer claims to have discovered the complete armour worn by Joan of Arc when she was captured in Compiègne in 1430. Pierre de Souzy claims that the armour which acquired it in Britain in the late 18th century — fits his daughter, aged 14, and features dents and repairs which correspond to documented war wounds suffered by Joan of Arc. While historians remain cautious — pointing out at least four women attempted to pass for Joan of Arc during her lifetime — they confirmed that the armour dates from the 15th century. One expert, Régine Perroud, told the Journal du Dimanche that the 5ft armour could be that which was commissioned by Charles VII for the shepherd girl who, according to legend, was told in a vision to free France from the Duke of Burgundy. French historians say details of Joan of Arc's scars are known because after her capture in 1430, Anne of Burgundy examined the 19-year-old prisoner to ascertain whether she was a virgin or a witch. Joan of Arc was eventually judged a heretic and burnt at the stake.

Tadic 'murdered former friend'

Ed Vulliamy in The Hague

BOSNIA'S war crimes trial enters a climactic phase this week as survivors of the infamous Serbian Omarska concentration camp gather in The Hague to see if they can identify the accused — Dusko Tadic — as one of the killers and torturers who allegedly patrolled the camp. The hearings resume tomorrow. The last session, on Friday, included the first open-court description of conditions in the camp, and the first eyewitness account of murders allegedly committed by Mr Tadic — two Muslims having their throats cut. Nihad Seferovic told the court he had played with Mr Tadic as a child, and later helped him build his cafe. He described being taken to Omarska after several days on the run from the shelling of his town, Kozarac. He said he arrived at the camp in late May 1992, almost unconscious from beatings. He remained a prisoner until Omarska was hastily closed on August 6. Asked by the court to lift the roof of a model of the camp to show where he was incarcerated, Mr Seferovic said: "I don't need to lift it. It was right below the roof on the upper floor." He asked the judges: "Do you know how a tin roof hots up in summer?" There was no water and little or no food, Mr Seferovic said. Men were taken out nightly and beaten — "super-human screams and curses" were audible throughout the vast hangar of what had been an air base.

Breakaway new regime announced by Croats

Julian Borger in Sarajevo

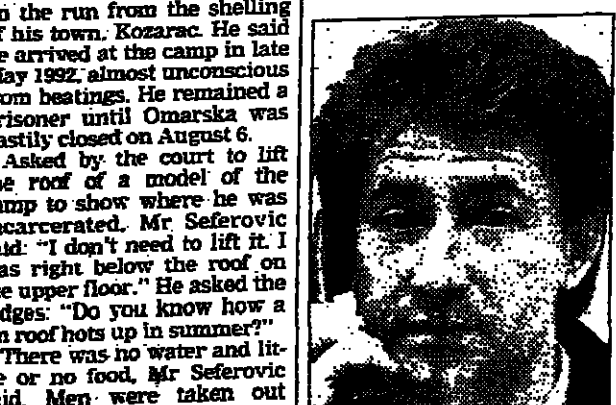
BOSNIA'S Croat hardliners announced the formation of a new separatist government at the weekend, in defiance of international efforts to unite the country's Croats and Muslims under the umbrella of a single Federation. The announcement, broadcast from the city of Mostar, equalled an assertion of independence by "Herzeg-Bosna", an unrecognised "statelet" within Bosnia formed by Croat nationalists during their 1993 revolt against the Muslim-led government. The Bosnian prime minister, Hasan Muratovic, denounced the breakaway Croat regime yesterday as illegal, but acknowledged that it continued to operate as a state within a state. In March Croat leaders agreed to dissolve Herzeg-Bosna and the government consented to transfer power from Muslim-dominated institutions to new power-sharing Federal ministries. Neither has kept to the agreement. Since the Federation was launched in March 1994 under United States auspices, joint institutions have been formed and promoted by the West, but real power remains in the two nationalist camps. The Herzeg-Bosna government never ceased to function, and the naming of a new cabinet is a defiant gesture, both in its timing and in the choice of ministers. A militant Croat separatist, Pero Markovic, has been named "prime minister", but Muslim leaders in Sarajevo were more concerned that Vladimir Soljic would continue as "defence minister". Mr Soljic is officially the Federation's defence minister, but his parallel involvement in Herzeg-Bosna raises questions about his commitment to forming a joint Muslim-Croat army. Muslim and Croat leaders were due to agree on a defence law last week which would pave the way for a military merger, but talks broke down over who would have overall control. Their collapse infuriated Washington, which is withholding military support to the Federation until the defence law is passed. The hardline Croat stance raises questions about the feasibility of elections in Mostar, scheduled for June 30.

Ministers battle to save summit from BSE row

John Palmer in Rome

EUROPEAN UNION foreign ministers gather in Rome today for what looks like a doomed last attempt to prevent the BSE row turning into a full-scale confrontation between John Major and his fellow EU leaders at this week's summit in Florence. EU governments are not satisfied with plans put forward by London for the eradication of BSE, and a framework agreement on the phased lifting of the beef ban is unlikely before the summit. If there is no agreement, the prime minister has threatened to paralyse the summit — which has been called to discuss progress to a single currency and the planned review of the Maastricht treaty. Jacques Santer, the president of the European Commission, warned on Saturday: "Our heads of state and government will not allow themselves to be cornered." Meanwhile the beef conflict is strengthening the resolve of Britain's EU partners to find ways of moving to closer political union, if necessary without Britain. The Rome meeting will hear a progress report about possible changes to the Maastricht treaty which could lead to Britain being marginalised in decision-making. Almost all the other 14 member states are ready to pool sovereignty on issues including foreign and security policy. Even the governments which have shown most sympathy for Mr Major's predicament over beef and his problems with Eurosceptic MPs now despair of reaching a long-term agreement on the future of Europe. Italy has had to withdraw invitations to a number of Latin American governments to sign a co-operation declaration with the EU in Florence on Friday, fearing that the whole deal could be vetoed at the last minute by Mr Major. "The cancellation of the invitation to the Andean Pact countries is extremely embarrassing for the European Union," one Commission official said. "There have been more than 70 British blocking decisions in the last few weeks on matters nothing to do with beef. I really wonder if the authorities in London understand what this is doing to the attitude of others to Britain's role in Europe?" The other EU heads of gov-

ernment are determined to deny Mr Major an outright propaganda victory. The most they will agree to is a general promise — without a timetable or guarantees — to consider a step-by-step removal of the beef ban as Britain proves it is making progress in eliminating BSE. They also want some 20,000 extra suspect cattle culled. The British government is under enormous pressure to call off its attempt to paralyse EU decision-making. The last chance for a face-saving compromise on a framework agreement to lift the beef ban may depend on the Foreign Secretary, Malcolm Rifkind, ending Britain's non-cooperation campaign in Rome. However, Mr Rifkind insisted last week that without an acceptable framework agreement on beef, the Florence summit would itself fall victim to the British scorched earth policy. "If the [beef] matter has not been resolved by the Florence summit, then, inevitably, it will be the dominant issue for the summit." The failure on Friday of the influential EU vets committee to approve Britain's draft framework for a five-stage lifting of the ban makes a compromise today even less likely.



Dusan Tadic: 'Sent Muslims to death or to torture camps'

Most would never return, he said. "Their places would be filled by other men." But those that did return, Mr Seferovic said, could not speak and were "the same colour as your robes" — bright scarlet. "Somehow, I survived," he said. One night, Mr Seferovic told the tribunal: "The yelling was so loud that everyone fell completely silent for two days afterwards." Among those that night who disappeared that night was a friend called Emir Karahasic, whose witness statement also being a particularly close friend of Mr Tadic. On the indictment, Mr Tadic is accused of murdering Mr Karahasic that night. Mr Seferovic told the court he had witnessed two mur-

ders while on the run and hiding in an orchard in Kozarac. He said he had seen Mr Tadic take two men out of a group of five Muslim police officers from the village and slit their throats with a dagger. "Blood gushed out everywhere, and there was suddenly a terrible firing — I don't know why, in celebration I suppose." Each eyewitness so far has been asked to identify Mr Tadic in court, and this was an especially chilling moment. When Mr Seferovic gestured towards the dock, Mr Tadic returned his gaze, cocking one eyebrow and throwing a defiant smirk at his old friend. Azra Blazevic had known Mr Tadic as a neighbour and seen him directing groups of Serbian soldiers after Muslim civilians surrendered to their bombardment of Kozarac. Nasir Klijic had been a good acquaintance of Mr Tadic on the rounds of local taverns and cafes. But she last saw him when she was part of a column of Muslim civilians from Kozarac whom armed Serbs were sorting into groups for execution or dispatch to camps — men to Omarska or Keraterm, women and children to Trnopolje, cw0. Mrs Klijic said Mr Tadic was one of those patrolling the column in a police car, and later — "automatic rifle in hand" — sorting civilians into their camp groups. Mrs Klijic's testimony was markedly spirited, but suddenly broken by tears when she was asked if she had seen her husband or two brothers since that time. Her brothers had both been dispatched to Omarska.

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Violence beyond belief
Sinn Fein's credibility shattered

IRA BOMBS are political acts and a serious attempt must always be made to examine them as such, especially by those of us for whom such forms of political violence are tactics beyond belief.

The bomb in Manchester (a city full of Irish connections) is a classic republican statement. It was a reassertion that the "armed struggle" (against Saturday shoppers and their children?) continues to be absolutely central to republican strategy.

It is also a broader reminder that the IRA is a law unto itself. In this sense the bombing is exactly parallel to the murder of Garda detective Jerry McCabe in County Limerick 10 days ago.

Yet the Manchester bomb is presumably also an act with intended political consequences. There is much speculation at the moment that republican strategists were impressed by the speed with which the Canary Wharf bomb in February was followed by an announcement of all-party talks for June 10.

If so, it is hard to see that happening, not least because the two situations are very different. The British government mishandled events in January, especially around the release of the Mitchell Report, and its delaying tactics forfeited its credibility and allies.

Yet supposing that it was, with whom should Mr Adams deal? With Gerry Adams? Even with the best will in the world, this is not credible at the moment. A lot of people have stuck their necks out on behalf of Gerry Adams, from Bill Clinton down to the Northern Ireland people who took the slogan A Vote For Sinn Fein Is A Vote For Peace at face value less than three weeks ago.

Take another, even more important, example. Four weeks ago, Mr Adams confirmed that Sinn Fein was fully signed up for the "Mitchell principles" and was therefore available for all-party talks.

Some observers speculate that the bombing in Manchester will shortly be followed by an announcement of a ceasefire. If so, that will no longer be enough to allow Sinn Fein immediate entry into talks.



Letters to the Editor

Would you believe it, they do

WHAT I cannot understand about Catherine Bennett's article (Would you believe it? June 14) is why my belief system is subject to so much hostility in comparison to most others.

There is no more scientific proof of the beliefs behind Christianity than astrology but Christians do not have to read articles which categorise them as naive, desperate and foolish. They do not have words like "holism" and "misleading tosh" applied to what they believe in.

INCREASING acceptance within mainstream medicine of systems like homeopathy or acupuncture was not brought about by "consumer demand" rather than new evidence. Hundreds of trials have been carried out and papers published in scientific journals and the results have been impressive.

One more question Ms Bennett asks: what kind of a world will it be when there are no more mysteries, when every cell, every spark of mental activity has been laid out for clinical inspection? Tony Magnusson, 1076 Grosvenor Avenue, London N5 2NL.

CATHERINE Bennett doesn't understand that human beings have non-rational (not the same as irrational) and non-materialistic needs, which they fill as well as they can. And if many of their choices appear daft, that doesn't invalidate their need for something meaningful beyond the tangible trivia of daily life.

CATHERINE Bennett deplores the fact that "unscrupulous" practitioners of alternative medicine raise "false hopes" in the terminally sick. Does she mean to suggest that conventional practitioners raise "true hopes" or should the terminally sick just be sensible and live out their time in a state of rational despair? Robin J Dow, 9 Sycamore Close, Andam, Cheshire CW3 0EZ.

More on that passionate affair between lovers and the law

ANITA RODDICK (Better than dead, June 14) mistakenly believes that unmarried women are hampered by the legal system when exercising male partners. They can, in fact, easily be rid of inconvenient cobwebs (abusive or otherwise) without recourse to law.

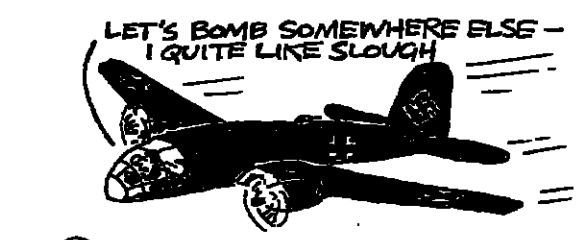
The magic mantra is "domestic violence". A mere suggestion is likely to be enough. A "denial of abuse" by the man is now accepted as a manifestation of guilt by Women's Aid, who offer temporary accommodation and assist with local authority housing. Applicants are advised to surrender joint tenancies (creating a vacancy by evicting the man) in exchange for "new" homes.

Divorce proceedings are a traumatic and costly business. Surely no one argues that the existence of divorce enhances the status and stability of marriage. The only thing it can do for children is to make them wary of marriage. Which is presumably why people now seem as dark as night, rather than merry. Edwin E Wilkes, 10 Chichester Court, Manor Road, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands B73 6EG.

Sex blight

WHERE do paedophiles come from (Letters, June 12)? Until we answer that question, sending them to prison will solve nothing. In my experience, paedophilic tendencies develop in men — it is nearly always men — who grow up lacking the emotional/sexual maturity necessary for developing reciprocal relationships with women. They sense women as a threat to their self-esteem. Their sex drive then becomes misdirected to various forms of titillation with young boys.

The antidote to this malfunctioning is an accepting and comprehensive sex education for adolescent boys in both home and school. As yet, this does not reliably take place owing to persisting nervousness about sex among the young in our post-prudish society. This question is what has to be put right if Britain is ever to shake off this ugly blight within society. (Dr) James Hemming, 31 Broom Water, Teddington, Middx TW11 9QJ.



Slough, that sceptre'd isle

KNOCKING Slough is an English tradition (Slough's pride lies in the mire, June 13). In this instance, however, the pretax is flawed. Far from demonstrating that people feel alienated, the 1994 Mori survey discovered that 57 per cent felt attached to Slough. This was the highest rating of any town in Berkshire and a far more convincing feeling of community attachment than in, say, nearby Reading (46). In addition, a further 26 per cent felt a strong attachment to a smaller neighbourhood, such as their housing estate. These findings surely strengthen the case for truly local government with a detailed knowledge of the area.

Our own research demonstrates that the majority of people who live in Slough take a real pride in it, alongside a realistic acknowledgement of its image problem. Lazy journalists are one of the roots of that problem. (Cheryl) Coppell, Chief Executive, Slough Borough Council, Town Hall, Bath Road, Slough, Berks SL1 3UQ.

Nicoteenies

IF PARENTS should forget "dire health warnings" to persuade their children to stop smoking (June 12), what can we do instead? My two teenage children are, for the most part, intelligent, well-balanced, well-educated and rational young adults. They are socially aware and behave in a responsible way in many situations. Yet they seem to have no grasp of reality when it comes to smoking.

I have tried every tactic I can think of. First, I tried to keep calm. No effect. I spoke to them sensibly. No effect. I ranted and raved and condemned them. No effect. I said they smelt like old ash trays. No effect. I said they were manipulated by advertising and peer pressure. No effect. I said they were pouring money into the Conservative government. No effect. I can't think what else to try. C Black, Highdown House, Bishops Tachbrook, Warwickshire CV33 9SA.

A Country Diary

SYABRU, NEPAL: To stand on the southernmost edge of the Langtang National Park, the largest protected area in Nepal, is to be given a compelling lesson in the environmental challenges facing this mountain country. As far as the pre-monsoon haze permitted we could see range after range of hills denuded of tree cover. Since the beginning of this century, Nepal's expanding population (currently about 18 million) has been obliged to clear and terrace ever more of the steep slopes that were once blanketed in forest. The mountain areas between altitudes of 2,500-8,000 feet hold almost half the people and have been most severely deforested. Yet just north of this altitudinal belt, in the heart of the Langtang park, we were fortunate to encounter some of the country's last virgin forests. One of these, near the village of Syabru, is one of the most magnificent and atmospheric I have ever seen. The vertical slopes covered in upon us in a near-

physical embrace and we felt the suffocating richness of its vegetation. Classified as moist deciduous, it had that magical damp odour of rainforest, and any 19th century explorer would have called it jungle. Vines and creepers snaked through the understorey and blossomed overhead in a vibrant, jostling canopy of green. Occasionally, sunlight broke through this false ceiling and gathered in sparkling pools, while elsewhere it seemed as dark as night. Birds maintained a tempting sub-tropical chatter but seldom revealed themselves. Although we were over 6,000 feet up, the air had an almost tangible consistency as if we were moving through an endless tunnel of yellow. I was amused how our Nepali guides kept us going with the promise of a geothermally-heated spring. Yet when we reached this fountain, the sulphurous-smelling liquid felt about as refreshing as a bowl of warm porridge. MARK COCKER

Let's wear our national dress with pride

Endpiece

Roy Hattersley

LAST week, watching the opening ceremony of the European Football Championship, I had one of my rare political ideas. The massed bands had formed up in front of the royal box in preparation for the national anthems of the teams — England and Switzerland — whose match kicked off the tournament and the two petite sopranos, who were to lead the singing, were walking daintily across the sacred turf to their positions between the drum majors. One young lady wore a little black number that I thought more appropriate to a late-night cabaret act. The other was standard in a dirndl with coloured panels, which obviously represented the regions of her homeland.

It was, I assumed, the sort of thing that the peasant women of Switzerland had worn since the days of William Tell. Yet the English identity was being asserted by something out of a Bond Street shop window. The time had come, I decided, for us to acquire official national dress.

What I had in mind was not one of those comic outfits which exhibitionist idiots put on for the last night of the Proms. England deserves something more dignified than a John Bull waistcoat or the brass helmet which Britannia stole from a Victorian fireman. What we needed, I decided, was an evocation of what we wore during the moments of our historic greatness.

My reluctance to risk the ridiculous would, I realised, limit the English costume to women. For at times of economic and imperial expansion, the Englishmen who ruled the world always looked absurd in doublet and hose or giant top hats that must have been inspired by the steam locomotives that we invented. But better a skirt than nothing. Certainly better than a cocktail dress.

I determined to suggest that the promise of a national dress competition be included in Labour's next election manifesto — or at least the version which is circulated south of the Scottish border.

Then, the lady whose clothes I had assumed made hearts beat faster in every canton, began to sing God Save the Queen and I became again a reluctant patriot to secure in my Englishness to feel the need to make a fuss about it. I hope the feeling was contagious. For I am beginning to fear that the instinct for quiet superiority, which once made Englishmen intolerable as well as invincible, is a thing of the past. When I read tabloid headlines attacking the French and Germans, I realise that they are primarily motivated by the zeal to sell newspapers. But, assuming that the editors are not completely barmy — a working hypothesis necessary for the development of my argument — we must accept that being rude to the frogs and huns attracts new readers.

It may be that the attraction is built on the joy of bullying what we still regard as weak and feeble nations. But I doubt it. The politics of envy, about which we hear so much from the Tory press, is not the expression of proper resentment at continuing poverty and injustice. It is the prejudice to which the chauvinistic head-

lines intentionally pander. These days we fear that continental Europe is, in many material ways, ahead of us. All the manifestations of nationalism — including heaven help us, Geoffrey Boycott proclaiming on television his refusal to become European — are the cries of a profoundly disappointed people.

When I hear the aggressive talk about refusing to become subservient to Brussels and Frankfurt, I recall one of the popular sayings of my Yorkshire boyhood. "If you can't fight, wear a big hat." And the big hat is so unnecessary. For what ought to make English men and women love England is, although not indefeasible, not yet destroyed. It has very little to do with power and the ability to punch above our weight at international meetings. Nor is it directly concerned with the arcadian fantasy which I sometimes fear lies at the sentimental heart of my own patriotism.

The England that I want to see — indeed the England into which I once believed myself to have been born — is a country that makes the inner cities as pleasant, if not as green, as the Peak park. It is a country whose government — to paraphrase G K Chesterton — speaks for the people who have not spoken yet.

The fear — increasingly disenfranchised by the new alignment of political parties — are part of England too. So are the descendants of the Commonwealth immigrants who came here more than two generations ago. The England that I want to see will be a land of more hope and less

stagnation — and the hope will be increased for the families below the poverty line, and the young men who are doing jobs because racial discrimination still stalks the land like a dragon waiting for St George to cut its throat.

Believing that this country has a passion to help the disadvantaged and dispossessed is one of the reasons that I am proud of being English. That passion is temporarily dormant but true patriots will try to awaken it for, romantic though the idea well may be, part of what we were once taught about England was its natural capacity for compassion.

Various small advertisements and notices on the right margin, including 'Culto Jiary', 'Victori. Britain', and 'After govern...'

Cuito Diary

Victory Britain

NOTHING prepares you for the destruction of Cuito Angola. On the main street, which was the front line of the siege by UNITA two years ago, blocks of flats have collapsed into rubble, the cathedral has only one wall and the bell tower standing, the pink shells of the grandiose Portuguese government buildings are pocked with tens of thousands of bullet holes. Not a window but a roof survived. There is no water system and electricity is rationed.

Thirty thousand people died here during the 15-month siege in 1993/4, and many are buried in mass graves in the town's square. Others were buried in their family graves. People survived in underground bunkers on government troops and whatever food could be brought from the fields by those brave and desperate men and women. On every street today you see the price paid: men, women, children swinging along on crutches, a foot or a leg left to mimes. No town in the world has so many amputees. Fizz, artificial limbs expert from the Red Cross, which last week reopened its centre for making polypropylene limbs. They had 1,000 names on the waiting list before the first day.

The Red Cross official who flew into Cuito to assess the damage to the organisation's centre was the man who had built it. He cried when he saw the heap of rubble. Like many of the 40,000 survivors, he had to be rebuilt from scratch. Forty new legs a month is the initial goal. Watching the first two patients practising walking on the new limbs, Fizz points to the very worn tennis shoes of one of them: "That's a real problem - we can only do legs for people who have a pair of shoes, and most people here do not."

Most people in Cuito have little chance of buying a pair of shoes - all resources have gone into building a home. And almost every family lost many of its working members in the siege and is caring for orphans. Grief is smothered by exhaustion.

The threat of mine accidents still keeps Cuito's people off much of their land and few are producing more than subsistence food. Rocking inflation has put salt, sugar, oil or soap out of reach of most. Apart from those with someone in the family who works for foreigners, few can buy such luxuries. Across the courtyard from the Red Cross is another sign of a town stretched beyond its strength: a new emergency clinic for malnourished babies, run by Belgian Médecins Sans Frontières - 150 children with marasmus and kwashiorkor lie on straw matting with their mothers. They have come from Cuito or the UNITA-controlled bush around the city over the last three months.

Another 100 seriously ill children lie in a bed inside the hospital. One Angolan doctor works with eight young Belgian doctors and nurses. The rebuilding of the hospital is being paid for by MSF; they supply all drugs.

TWO DOZEN young foreigners dominate Cuito. Most cars in town fly the flags of the Red Cross, MSF, World Food Programme, Save the Children, Unicef, Concern, Halo Trust, Daily flights from Luanda on a WFP plane, electricity generators and water reservoirs give them resources beyond the dreams of the rest of the town.

Darkness falls suddenly in Angola's Central Highlands and Cuito becomes a signpost town lit only by occasional car headlights, the small of an aid agency or the Brazilian UN troops quartered five miles out in the desolate little town of Cunje. Inside the house of Halo Trust, the British de-mining charity, three young soldiers from UN's de-mining team play video games. Mines from very containers are cracked open, the bookshelves, pictures of victims among them. Aul Heslop, from Yorkshire, comes in with an armful of mines and shells taken out of garden in half an hour. "I find more here in a morning than I did in a year in Mozambique."

Halo has found 11 different kinds of mine in Cuito, and identified 165 minefields just in the 15 per cent of the province accessible by three roads partly reopened. Beyond this small strip lies UNITA control. Narry footpaths disappear in high pink-brown grass and scrub bush to the world run by those who destroyed Cuito.

Cartels can give you a pain in the head

Commentary

Mark Lawson

MUCH publicity was given last week to the Paradi Syndrome, a condition in which the sufferer - the pop star Dave Stewart has come out as one such - are so professionally and industrially successful that they are afflicted with serious illness. But there is good news for sufferers from what we might call the Paradi Syndrome, a condition suffered by millions of over-worked and deprived Britons who frequently experience vague and often imaginary pain in their head and limbs and will down proprietary painkillers to ease them. The supermarket chain Asda is fighting a legal battle to sell painkillers at around half the price their manufacturers would like to charge for them.

Since 196 resale price maintenance (RPM) - better known as a cartel - has been permitted in Britain only on books and medicines. In recent years the publishing cartel has been partly dismantled. The situation was clearly unfair to, for example,

people who were willing to struggle with the modern novel but found that to do so gave them a headache. Now, if Asda has its way, you will be able to pick up both your Asda and your Asda in cut-price rates. As defenders of the Net Book Agreement discovered, arguments in defence of artificially high pricing find few ideological buyers. The only plausible one is variety of retail outlets: the small specialist shop rather than the impersonal and omnivorous chain. The Community Pharmacists Action Group - representing the high street chemists - is already advancing this view against Asda. The big pharmaceutical companies, who fix the prices, will insist that a part of their massive mark-up - which is matched only by luxury goods such as status cars and clothes - is justified in part by the industry's commitment to research and proper testing of products.

Yet the pharmaceutical cartel seems to me more easily defensible than most - morally if not economically. The inevitable effect of price reduction is to increase consumption. But is it a sensible idea to maximise intake of painkillers? I understand that Asda is not priced at £1.86 a packet for these altruistic medical reasons - no more than we should believe in the supermarket war, has less dramatic consequences - because they treat symptoms rather than cause - but problems still result. Liver and kidney damage may occur from treating paracetamol like candy. NHS orthopaedics departments are doubtless busier than they might have been because Deep-Heat and Nurofen and so on permit the amateur sports participant to

ignore nature's warning to stay in the armchair and haul that twinging ligament or throbbing joint on to the court or pitch once more. As pressure from the drugs industry to license stronger and stronger drugs for general sale has been permitted by the Government - how suspiciously often the words "Now available without prescription" seem to appear in drug advertisements these days - the qualified high street pharmacist has become an important regulator. For years, purchasers of the stronger proprietary medicines experienced the surrogate junkie frisson when the sales assistant solemnly rattled the box or bottle and waited for the approving nod from the pharmacist. More recently - as part of an organised campaign to raise the profile and influence of phar-

macists - staff have begun detailed interrogations of non-prescription shoppers: "Have you taken this before?" "Are you an asthmatic?" "Are you taking anything else?" Sometimes, this scrutiny may be a little indiscriminate. Recently, purchasing a tube of Metanium ointment (the state-of-the-art balm for nappy rash), I was asked: "Are you on any other medication?" having presumably been identified as one of the more mature known sufferers of this distressing itchy condition. Yet, even so, and although this diligent care is in part tactical (a strike against the encroachment of the hypermarkets) it has bene-

fitical effects. Harassed GPs' practices have been spared some unnecessary consultations. Dangerous combination cures have been avoided. Into this complex world of profiteering manufacturers and hypochondriac consumers comes this weekend's news of a reported cure for the common cold. Those hundreds of powders, pills and syrups currently on the market merely alleviate the symptoms of the cold. The ability of the cold virus to change form within days or weeks has made a general preventive impossible. American researchers, however, believe that they have designed a zinc-based drug which will disable the rhinovirus that provokes most coughs and sneezes by blocking its ability to bind to healthy cells.

A world without the common cold would be one from which a trivial but debilitating lifelong human misery had been removed. Economists and educationalists would quickly spot the benefits of the instant extinction of millions of sick-noses. Furthermore, the cure will be, it is reported, "safe and cheap". Yet history suggests that no drug is, strictly, safe and, until Asda launched its initiative last week, certainly none of them has ever been cheap. The cure for the common cold, if it proves true, will presumably first be limited to prescription but, like penicillin, will be over-prescribed in a fit of gratitude from patients and doctors. Eventually, it may be available over the counter in riverside pharmacies and supermarkets. Supermarkets like to present themselves as places where you can get anything but this claim may turn out to be truer than they think. The free market can be fatal.

The prices of the proprietary treatments bring water to your eyes as easily as does pollen

After the Manchester bomb, argues Paul Bew, first priority for the Irish and British governments must be to support the long-suffering democratic parties in the North

Taken to extremes

WHY DID THE IRA let off a massive bomb in Manchester, of all places? There is a strong Irish connection with an affection for, all major British cities, but this is particularly true of Manchester. While even now a new IRA ceasefire cannot be absolutely ruled out, it is unlikely that this bomb was intended to be a signing-off note. It is more likely that the Republican leadership has decided that the Major government is unable or unwilling to pressurise the Ulster Unionist Party and act as a "patscher" for Irish unity. This was, after all, the original aiding concept of the "Irish peace process" or the Hume-Adams initiative as it was known: for all the slipper of the Major government in other respects - George Mitchell is in effect the US envoy the British government once set its face against - there is no sign of slippage on this key point.

The implication is that any revival of the peace process from an IRA point of view, depends on a Blair government though why Tony Blair, scourge of fundamentalism elsewhere, should be thought likely to rescue Irish Republican fundamentalism is not exactly clear. The elements of any possible settlement have been defined ever more precisely in recent years by the British and Irish governments. Its cornerstone is the principle of consent. There has to be the consent of a majority in the North before there is a united Ireland. But consent, as SDLP deputy leader Seamus Mallon points out, is a two-way street; there has to be power-sharing plus an Irish dimension before nationalists will give their consent. In the status quo in the North and the dropping of the Irish territorial claim. This is a finely balanced structure - some will say it is a Utopian one - but it is the only possible alternative to the current reality of direct rule with a green tinge. The Major government lays a particular heavy emphasis on the need for the "agreement" of the parties before any new arrangements can be put in place, but Mr Blair shows a sign of wanting to depart a sign of any decisive way from broad outlines of an inter-governmental policy which has been so laboriously forged.

Where does this leave the Stormont talks, which opened in such tetchy and ill-prepared style a week ago before the Manchester bomb went off, political discussion in the provocation and the position of David Trimble, leader of the Ulster Unionist Party. Mr Trimble had been a huge risk in accepting the talks chairmanship of George Mitchell, the former US Senator. Both Ian Paisley's Emoyatic Unionist Party and Robert McCartney's UK Unionist Party felt that Mitchell was an intolerable



choice - on the grounds that the former senator was beholden to an Irish-American nationalist constituency. The Mitchell report on decommissioning was seen also as including a rather credulous acceptance - at the very moment when the Canary Wharf bomb was being planned - of the sincerity of the Republican movement on the subject of the decommissioning of paramilitary arms. In paragraph 35 the Mitchell report roundly declared: "There is a clear commitment on the part of those in possession of such arms to work constructively to achieve full and verifiable decommissioning as part of the

process of all party negotiations." This sits rather uneasily with the recent dictum of the leading Belfast Republican Brian Keenan, who declared that the only decommissioning on the agenda was the decommissioning of the British state in Ireland. Mr Trimble probably shares these doubts about Senator Mitchell but it is now clear that he intends to treat the talks as a serious opportunity to reach an accommodation with nationalism. He has held together his talks delegation - which includes some of the right of his party - on this point, but others in the party's wider base and grass roots were deeply upset.

The MP for South Belfast, the Rev Martin Smyth, has already joined the ranks of the public sceptics. Mr Trimble desperately needs a reciprocal gesture from the two governments going beyond Sir Patrick Mayhew's apparent reference to his courage and leadership. There has to be some visible or symbolic alteration in Senator Mitchell's role as chairman. Until now the two governments have resisted this - primarily because they saw Mitchell's status as the clue to bringing about a new IRA ceasefire. But how rational are such calculations in the light of the Manchester bomb, which so

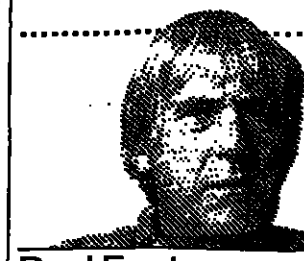
visibly cocked a snook at the talks process? Anyway, the procedural rules for the talks suggest that "consensus" required the support of parties which command a clear majority of both the Unionist and nationalist communities in Northern Ireland. Is this even remotely possible if the leadership of the Ulster Unionist Party is destroyed or even weakened?

At the root of all this lies a profound issue. The current peace process has been based on the determination to include "the extremes" in this policy has been pursued at the expense of the previously inter-governmental policy which attempted as a priority to build up a coalition of moderates. Not everyone on the British side has been equally enthusiastic about the new policy. In the autumn of 1993 Sir Patrick Mayhew seemed to be rather chary about the change of emphasis. On the Irish side the paradigm shift has been more complete - especially within the Department of Foreign Affairs - though John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, expressed some unease on this score yesterday. If the political class of Sinn Féin cannot deliver the IRA - and the evidence to date is that the shifting balance of forces within Republicanism means that it can no longer do so - then the talks are the only game in town.

If the parties (representing 85 per cent of the Northern Irish population and the two governments) can reach agreement - and the odds are rather against it - then they have the capacity to redefine the Irish question and, more particularly, make it exceptionally difficult for paramilitary groupings to claim to be acting in the name of the unfinished business of Irish history. For this to happen, a large segment of the Unionist community has to grasp the fact that an internal settlement is an impossibility. Unionists have entirely legitimate concerns about the apparent implication of schemes of north-south harmonisation in health, education and social welfare - concerns which the British government has done amazingly little to address in the way it should do so.

Nevertheless, cross-border institutions are an essential part of any settlement; they may be the rather large symbolic fig leaf necessary to permit the abandonment of a campaign to coerce Unionists into a united Ireland or a system of joint authority. But, at the moment, the most urgent priority is for the two governments to tend to the needs of those democratic parties in the North - which despite many provocations have grudgingly stuck with the efforts to forge an historic compromise.

Don't ask us for compassion, the answer is No



Paul Foot

AT A MEETING in his birthplace, Walthamstow, to celebrate William Morris, who died 100 years ago, a teacher eloquently protests against the looming deportation of Angola of Natasha Matembela, 12. Natasha and her family fled here in 1981 from war and persecution. They applied for asylum, and have recently been refused. Natasha's fate has outraged teachers and fellow pupils at Forest Gate school, Newham, most of whom have petitioned and demonstrated in protest. For the teachers the issue is child protection. "If the Home Office ordered us to send young girl to an abuser, we would be horrified," one of them argued. "This is worse". I reflect that William Morris, who campaigned so often for the oppressed all over the world, never had to worry about the systematic deportation of people who have fled from their oppressors. A hundred years ago there were none of the controls which give the Home Office such wide license to persecute asylum-seekers. Dissidents and reformers from other countries fled to Britain and enriched social and political life here. Now, after 100 years of democracy and progress, they are hunted down by Howard's hit-men, disbelieved, bullied, detained and flung out of the country after a farcical appeals procedure. Britain's Refugee Council discloses that in the first three months of this year half the 8,315 applications for asylum were from Africans; 97 per cent of these were refused. Just opposite me lives Jean Ligue, a young man who fled to Britain from the Ivory Coast, where his opposition to the government put his life in danger. The Home Office started by saying that Jean's student federation has not been banned in the Ivory Coast. Then they conceded the federation is banned, but stated that Jean would be checked out anyway. Can you guess the number of applications for asylum from the Ivory Coast so far granted by Home Secretary Howard, whose parents were granted asylum in Britain from pre-war Romania? I think you can. Romaia.

cause of an embarrassing turn of events in Gorton Constituency Labour Party, Manchester. Before a new Labour candidate was selected in 1994, some 600 applications to join the party were "held over". The nomination meetings duly took place without the 600 and the sitting MP, Gerald Kaufman, was selected.

The 600 take the view that they were deliberately kept out of the selection process. Some of them attribute their exclusion to their Asian origins. They are taking the Labour Party to court, alleging racial discrimination. The case opens in Manchester today. A lot of evidence will be heard about mysterious delays on perfectly legitimate Labour Party applications, some of them responding to those earnest appeals from Tony Blair to Join Labour which appear regularly on the front page of the Guardian.

The Labour Party is not completely confident of victory. Its leaders have gazed down an awful vista in which the courts find racial discrimination against a party which appear regularly on the front page of the Guardian. The Labour Party is not completely confident of victory. Its leaders have gazed down an awful vista in which the courts find racial discrimination against a party which appear regularly on the front page of the Guardian. The Labour Party is not completely confident of victory. Its leaders have gazed down an awful vista in which the courts find racial discrimination against a party which appear regularly on the front page of the Guardian.

In English, I think this means that if the court discovers such gross discrimination in Gorton that it rules the selection of Mr Kaufman unlawful, the Labour leaders will stick two fingers up to the courts they are constantly telling us to revere (and from which so many of them make such a good living) and impose Gerald Kaufman anyway. On reflection that's not even OMOVIF. It's NOMEV. No Members Voting. New Labour. New democracy.

NEW William Morris for that matter. Tony Blair has joined the chorus of enthusiasts who say they have been influenced by Morris. Perhaps he thinks Morris was the archetypal "designer socialist". In fact, for the last 15 years of his life William Morris was a revolutionary socialist. He lambasted the reformers in the movement who are so scared of scaring others that they behave like Tories and Liberals. "If you tell your audiences you are going to change so little that they will scarcely feel the change," he warned, "whether you scare anyone or not, you will certainly not interest those who have nothing to hope for in the present society".

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Ella Fitzgerald

The jubilant voice of jazz

VULNERABILITY has always been a popular quality for jazz musicians to display, and the worse the bruises the better. The media loved Billie Holiday, Chet Baker, Charlie Parker and a raft of others for their haunting eyes, their unpredictability, the sound of decay in their later music, their bad deaths. Their capacity for spontaneous composition, which helped transform 20th-century music, has often run a poor second in their newsworthiness.

Yet just as suitable a subject for mythology, if it had been deemed as interesting, has been the exact reverse: the apparent indestructibility of many artists, despite being up against the pressures and prejudices that made the jazz life such a tough one for so long. Ella Fitzgerald, who has died aged 79, was the kind of jazz artist who brought that constantly to mind from the 1940s onward.

During the past two decades there have been plenty of opportunities to ponder such situations, involving Fitzgerald and others who grew up with her in an age in which jazz was more widely respected and where they became giants of western popular music. One such occasion was at the Royal Festival Hall in 1982, when Count Basie's Orchestra was performing with Ella Fitzgerald as its singer. Basie came on in a wheelchair, by then the age that Ella was at her death, a small, gnomic, humorous-looking figure who could still deliver an inimitably tip-toeing brand of piano introduction that triggered her into making a sound somewhere between a long drum-solo and a hundred cats purring at once. Then Ella Fitzgerald came on to whirl through *Blue Moon*, *I Get A Kick Out Of You*, *In A Mellow Tone* and a headlong *St Louis Blues* (she introduced it as "the only blues I know").

The show was a startling display of the Fitzgerald method, which depended on one of the most assured and complete techniques ever possessed by a jazz singer: a blend of driving swing, unswerving accuracy of pitch and instrumental-like improvisational skill. But it was fused by a chemistry unusual among jazz artists, an optimistic, even innocent take on the world which gave her interpretation of songs a spirited, jubilant quality. In age 1982, even the poignant lyrics of *God Bless The Child* were caressed into a consoling message of hope, a moving signature of almost all Fitzgerald performances.

The durability of Fitzgerald's spark was apparent when the Basie Orchestra again, at the Albert Hall in 1990. Basie had died and the band was run by his saxophonist Frank Foster. Fitzgerald was physically a different being to the one who had commanded the South Bank stage eight years before. Her sight was poor, she had trouble walking to the spotlight, and sat on a stool for a short set.

But though some of the old gleefully imperious sweep was gone, she still turned the melodies of classic songs around in such a way that made them glow all over again, and her timing remained uncanny. Almost as remarkable an achievement as her harmonic sense and ability to swing was Fitzgerald's ability to make all these virtues disappear so she seemed to be just singing in the bath. Sarah Vaughan, one of Fitzgerald's great contemporaries, always sounded like a diva, doing something you needed to be part of to do. Ella Fitzgerald made it sound easy, and at one stage this led to criticism that she

lacked emotional depth compared to her contemporary Billie Holiday. But Fitzgerald's artless playfulness was part of the secret of the immense affection which she inspired in musicians and the public — jazz buffs and non-buffs alike — for so many years.

Ella Fitzgerald was born in Newport News, Virginia, the daughter of William Fitzgerald and his common-law wife Temperance Williams Fitzgerald. When the couple separated a year later, she moved with her mother and a Portuguese immigrant named Joseph De Silva, to Yonkers, New York. Dancing was her first love in childhood. But, as with Billie Holiday, the transformation of American music that had been wrought by Louis Armstrong and the pioneering jazz improvisors in the 1920s (subversions of predictable rhythms, a broad sense of vocal-like instrumental effects from whistles to growls, strong infusions of the blues) attracted her to a new way of singing. Ella also liked the close-harmony Boswell Sisters, particularly the lead singer Connie



One of the most assured and complete techniques ever possessed by a jazz singer

Boswell, whose emotional depth and timing she tried hard to replicate. Fitzgerald performed as a dancer in the clubs in her district, working a routine with her friend Charles Gulliver.

But when she was 15, her mother died, and Ella went to live in Harlem with an aunt, the centre of a jazz world on the brink of a roll. The Depression had all but killed the commerciality of the blues, and the New Orleans music of the previous decade

sounded dated to an audience that wanted something slicker, quicker and more confident. The big band boom was about to begin, and an emerging radio network was to launch an era of swing that was as big as rock 'n' roll was to be 20 years later.

In November 1934, Ella Fitzgerald sang *The Object of My Affection* and *Judy* in the Boswell style, in a talent contest at Harlem's Apollo Theatre. She won first prize. Also saxophonist and bandleader Benny Carter spotted her and recommended her to the drummer/band leader Chick Webb, a dynamic and obsessive artist who had slugged off physical disability and imparted to his band the momentum of a runaway steam engine. Webb thought the homely and unsophisticated Ella didn't have the stage presence for a lead singer. But her popularity at the Apollo convinced him that her vocal skills more than compensated. He had to convince the singer, who doubted her own talents and regarded her singing at the time as "hollering".

Chick Webb became Ella's legal guardian as well as her boss. "He always taught me to follow the beat," Fitzgerald said of Webb, and they became nationally famous through a string of sensational Savoy Ballroom shows, radio and recording. Rehearsing in Beacon on a Webb tour, Ella began musing with a children's rhyme, and she and arranger Van Alexander turned it into *A Tisket, A Tasket*, which became a huge hit. She took the lyric, as she said "from that old drop-the-handkerchiefs game I played from six years old on up".

Chick Webb died in 1939 and the singer took over as nominal leader for the next three years. She recorded prolifically, mostly pop music and novelty songs for the juke-box market. But out of the 150 or so sides she cut in those years, there was enough to remind the jazz world that a singer of massive talent was maturing. From 1935 to 1955 she worked for Decca, often under the direction of producer Mitch Miller, and sang with the Ink Spots on several hits, including the million-seller *I'm Making Believe* and *Into Each Life Some Rain Must Fall*.

Bebop, the harmonically advanced and technically demanding jazz revolution that developed out of the frustration of the younger swing-band players and wartime economic pressures towards a self-sufficient small-band style, inevitably affected Fitzgerald. Technically able to handle the me-



A God-given voice and a talent for abstract expression... Ella Fitzgerald in 1990 and (left) in 1958 with Stan Gz (PHOTOGRAPHS: MARTIN ANGLER/TERRY CRYER (LEFT))

lodic convolutions and unpredictable switchbacks of bebop phrasing, she adapted elements of the new music to her own style in an influential 1945 recording of the swing tune *Flying Home*. Scott Fitzgerald remarked "I never knew how good our songs were until I heard Ella Fitzgerald sing them".

In 1964, the imaginative impresario Norman Granz became Fitzgerald's manager, and he drew her away from a solo pop-based repertoire toward the possibilities offered by the Gershwin session. She devoted her gifts increasingly to reinterpretations of works of great songwriters, and Granz recorded them for his Verve label. Fitzgerald's *Songbooks* series,

which took in Jerome Kern, Cole Porter, Rodgers and Hart, Irving Berlin, Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer, Harold Arlen and Frank Loesser (as well as five Gershwin volumes) became the high-point of the singer's career. She attracted Grammy awards like a magnet. But she remained a peerless live performer, as recording like *Mack The Knife* from *Ala In Berlin* resoundingly confirmed. From 1955 — with *Pete Kelly's Blues* — she also appeared in movies (starting with *Pete Kelly's Blues* in 1955), and reaffirmed her status with events like her own 1957 Hollywood Bowl concert.

Fitzgerald's popularity meant that by the 1960s she was touring up to 45 weeks a year. She collapsed onstage in 1965, and began to develop eyesight problems and diabetes. The latter led to the amputation of her legs below the knee in

1983. But despite declining health, Fitzgerald continued to perform and record into the early 1990s, broadcasting on occasion with Frank Sinatra, performing with ensembles as different as symphony orchestras and the Basie band. She also worked in the later career in delectable small groups, often with the great pianist-accompanist Jimmy Flanagan. But the occasional experiments with rock and soul didn't suit her, and rarely produced enduring music.

Ella Fitzgerald remained shy and abstemious throughout her later life, living in Beverly Hills and seemingly a small circle of friends, yet of them musicians and stars, including Carmen McRae and Peggy Lee. She kept her admiration and respect for singers in and out of the world all her life — from Bill Crosby and Frank Sinatra to Elton John and Cassandra Wilson. Downbeat magazine named her best female jazz

singer for 18 consecutive years, she received awards and doctorates from all over the world ("not had for someone who only studied music to get that half credit at high school" she said in an acceptance speech at Yale) and received a Kennedy Center Award for her work in the performing arts.

The British writer Benny Green maybe put the Fitzgerald magic best, however. He wrote: "She is the best equipped vocalist ever to grace the jazz scene. There is to her voice a lifting, lullaby quality which renders even commonplace material moving." As for Fitzgerald herself, she simply said: "God gave me a voice... something with which to make other people happy".

John Fordham
Ella Fitzgerald, singer, born April 25, 1917; died June 15, 1996

Ella, at lunch, in Kilburn, on stage, a legend...

BACK in 1984, the Women's Press Club offered a meeting place for journalists excluded from the club as *El Vino's*. The club was famous for its luncheons with star guests and it was a Canadian member, I think, who knew Ella Fitzgerald who persuaded her to visit during a tour. I could wait to meet a woman who had defined the art of singing the popular song, and can still see her coming through the club's 18th-century gateway, physically substantial and head-turning.

Thirty years ago it was still rare to find black women in an area like Fleet Street and she made an impressive sight, wearing figured black satin and the inscrutable expression that protected her from the usual remarks. Seated opposite her in deference to my jazz fan status, I witnessed first hand her need for this. The company was friendly, open and curious,

but they used strictly Home Counties idioms and I saw Ella struggle to follow the questions whose meaning eluded her. I found myself trying to alter the course of events by asking her about recording *Can't Buy Me Love* by the Beatles. I cannot remember what she said but I will remember her look of relief.

Ella inspired the cliché about singing the telephone book and making it sound good. If she had a fault it was to be perfection in a medium that requires its greatest exponents to be slightly flawed. Whenever I have caught myself thinking that there is not enough lived life in her music, I remind myself of that awkward afternoon — an early attraction of the loneliness of the distant black artist. And then I go home and play *Love For Sale* from the Cole Porter *Songbook* and change my mind all over again.

Val Wisener

THE first time Norman Granz's *Jazz At The Philharmonic* came to Britain was in 1953 when they played a Kilburn charity concert. As a Nigerian I wanted to go backstage to see these guys because they were my people, but when I got to Ella's dressing room Granz was standing there. Not knowing who he was, I tried to force my way past. "What? I heard Ella saying 'is happening out there'?" He had to let me in.

I was young, I had only been here three or four years. She asked me where I was from and really welcomed me. It meant a lot. I got her autograph. She was wonderful.

Ademola Johnson

ELLA Fitzgerald lived to sing. Nothing else in her life meant as much to her. Her love affair with music meant marriage, family, friends and a normal social life all took a back-seat to this one consuming passion. Her vocal style was widely admired for its purity of tone, clarity of diction, harmonic ingenuity and a highly

refined sense of swing. Sentimentally impervious to the untidy shocks that musically swept jazz and popular music she filled concert halls around the world whatever the prevailing musical fashion.

When she last appeared at the Albert Hall in 1990, she was frail and sat throughout her performance. Her voice was frayed at the edges but she was not about to let go of the one thing she loved most in life, "singing for the people" as she put it. By then she was a legend, performing for audiences who wanted to consume the aura of one of the great and enduring figures in 20th-century music.

Ella's career was full of paradoxes as I discovered when writing her biography in 1992. While much had been written about her, a lot was patently incorrect. She was always uncomfortable if asked to discuss her past in anything other than general

terms. She would go through her standard "we-were-poor-but-happy" routine, never seeking to correct such anomalies as her birth date, for example, always given as 1918 but in fact 1917.

As Norman Granz, her manager and long time confidant told me: "With Ella it was the music that mattered. The public have the albums and everything Ella had to say is there." Perhaps he is right. Perhaps if you know too much about your idols the magic disappears and by maintaining a distance between herself and her public, Ella was contributing to her own legend. Today we are left with her voice, beyond jazz, beyond popular music, but paradoxically limited by them. Yet all she ever wanted was that "people might say it's a nice song, sung by a nice singer". Such modest aspiration so conspicuously achieved.

Stuart Nicholson
Biographer of Ella Fitzgerald

Jackdaw



Old school

NO DOUBT you will say I am of the old school. But, in my day children were not allowed to run wild when mothers stayed home.

Now, married women want their cake and eat it by carrying on working while depriving men of their work. It is long past time to bring back men on TV and radio to read news and weather. They know how to speak properly without accents and through their nose.

A letter from a female reader, printed in the Daily Record, crying out for a return of the infinitely more talented male to

Private kiss

"THE Yanomami, who live in the forests near the upper Orinoco, don't hesitate to kiss their baby sons' penises or to suck them to put the child in a better mood. The Yanomami always knew the trick too. Elbi-Eibesfeldt hastened to assure us that the practice is a matter of good sexual parenting on the part of the Yanomami hunter-gatherers, not of adult sexual gratification."

I have, however, serious and good cause to rejoice in Blue's mention of Yanomami habits. In the dread, dark days of the 1960s, when I knew no better, I used to cover to cover my baby's willy with sickeningly besotted kisses. Now did the marshallallow perfection of my daughter's bum escape similar attentions. It is only now, in this enlightened neo-Victorian age, that I have been re-educated to understand that moths of social workers should, in fact, have descended in dawn raids and carried away

A redneck?

If you own more than three shirts with cut off sleeves.

If you consider a six pack of beer and a big zipper quality essential.

If you ever used lard in bed.

If your lifetime goal is to own a trashy car.

If someone asks to see your ID and you show them your belt buckle.

If the directions to your house include "turn off the paved road".

If you ever let a tooth opening a beer bottle.

If Jack Daniels makes your list of most admired people.

If your wife's hand gets tangled in the ceiling fan.

If you have a gag for a cloth cap.

If Redman Chewing Tobacco sends you a Christmas card.

Strange call

Radio conversation released by the chief of naval operations 10.10.95

Americans: Please divert your course 15 degrees to the north to avoid a collision.

Canadians: No, I say again divert YOUR course 15 degrees to the south to avoid a collision.

Americans: This is the captain of a US Navy ship. I say again, divert YOUR course.

Canadians: No, I say again divert YOUR course. Americans: THIS IS THE AIRCRAFT CARRIER USS MISSOURI WE ARE A LARGE WARSHIP OF THE US NAVY. DIVERT YOUR COURSE NOW.

Canadians: This is a light-house. Your call.

This is the transcript of a radio conversation between a US naval ship and a Canadian authorities off the coast of New

Which thesis?

HIS thesis is that "the semantic pretensions of Wagner's revolutionary music... are grounded in the physicality of the body" and Weirner aims to demonstrate that "music is the symbiotic acoustical corollary to visual impressions in Wagner's thought; hearing serves the same function as seeing. Music is an art that appeals to a different sense but that does so in order to convey the same physiological states that the eye discerns through visual impressions."

This is a crafty way to divert attention from the kind of purely musical defences of Wagner that Weirner finds so offensive, and his need to encourage such diversion becomes clear when he seeks to relate Wagner's dramas specifically to a "racist utopian agenda", a "heuristic intended meaning". Whether or not Weirner is correct in accusing most recent commentators on Wagner of "ignoring

or refusing to take seriously the anti-semitic dimension of Wagner's work", he himself stands accused of treating the musical dimension primarily as an adjunct to that "racist utopian agenda".

Weirner is intensely conscious of what he reads as "the remarkably... vehement criticism against anyone who entertains the possibility that Wagner's anti-semitism may be related somehow to his

refined sense of swing. Sentimentally impervious to the untidy shocks that musically swept jazz and popular music she filled concert halls around the world whatever the prevailing musical fashion.

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Invite your friends for a weepathon.

Invest in a new skin product. Ask him to be your pleasure slave for the evening. Acquire a net-brown tan. Listen to your dreams. Embrace your vices.

Just a few of the 108 smart tips to help you improve your life and self from given to us by Cosmopolitan in the July issue.

Jackdaw waru jewels. E-mail Jackdaw@guar.co.uk; fax 0171-713-3665; website, The Guardian, 119 Arlington Road, London EC1R 3ER.

Emily Sheffield

Life guide... Cosmopolitan

Wagner is intensely conscious of what he reads as "the remarkably... vehement criticism against anyone who entertains the possibility that Wagner's anti-semitism may be related somehow to his

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Stuart Nicholson
Biographer of Ella Fitzgerald

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Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
Fax: 0171-833-4456

Finance Guardian

COPPER CRISIS: Police to examine secret 'B accounts' at Merrill Lynch • Market braced for fall

City search for fraud cash

Patrick Donovan
and Paul Murphy

HUGE sums of money missing from the \$2.5 billion Sumitomo copper fraud may have passed through two secret bank accounts set up by "rogue trader" Yasuo Hamanaka at the City branch of Merrill Lynch, the leading US investment bank.

Further sums are thought to have been siphoned off through the Guernsey branch of the Bank of Butterfield, a Bermudan institution. There is no suggestion that Merrill Lynch or the Bank of Butterfield had any knowledge that irregular transactions were taking place. It also emerged yesterday that the Sumitomo fraud came to light only because documents intended for the trader were mistakenly sent to the firm's internal audit department. Mr Hamanaka was able to get away with his fraud for such a long time be-

cause he hid all the transactions in a personal trading book. The "B" accounts at Merrill Lynch are believed to have been opened in the name of Mr Hamanaka's employer, Sumitomo. It is understood that an unauthorised power of attorney was then given to the representative of a US firm which is now under investigation by the US regulator, the Commodities Futures Trading Commission. Sources say the Serious Fraud Office and the Securities and Investments Board are anxious to talk to Merrill Lynch directors about the suspect accounts. A spokesman for Merrill Lynch yesterday declined to comment. Mr Hamanaka last night was not answering his home

telephone number, having diverted the line to his fax machine. It has emerged that Mr Hamanaka accused the US regulator three years ago of being "too strict" in monitoring big-trader positions. He told the CFTC that it was "too difficult" to deal with. Later in 1993, Mr Hamanaka stopped trading on Comex, the US market, and moved most of his business to the London Metal Exchange. Companies which had business links with Sumitomo are expected to be asked to help the police and regulators with their investigation. These include Winchester Commodities, which had regular dealings with Mr Hamanaka, although it is not implicated in this inquiry. Further investigations are

expected to be carried out in Guernsey. The Securities and Futures Authority has been concerned about dealings passing through the offshore tax haven since autumn 1994. It has found evidence that two offshore entities were involved in complex and profitable metals business. Documents relating to the companies were seized in a raid by local police and financial regulatory authorities on May 11. Guernsey police are refusing to comment on the purpose of the raid. Although outside the SFA's jurisdiction, the activities of Drake Commodities and Vulcanis — two companies registered in the British Virgin Islands but operating in St Peter's Port — were thought to warrant investigation.

"There was a stable of companies to which we had no access, which would require work at a higher level, a fully motivated investigation," one source said. "Drake was doing some very sophisticated trading strategies and making some handsome money, booking a profit of \$10 million in the case of one deal. This was all away from the eyes of the tax man and the regulators. Neither company was available for comment yesterday, and it remains unclear whether the SFA has investigated either. The chief executive of the LME yesterday attempted to calm the markets by insisting that the Sumitomo affair would not disrupt trading when the markets open today.

Notebook

Much blame lies closer to home



Alex Brummer

READERS of the Sunday question the satisfaction expressed by some commentators at the discomfiture of the Japanese over the rogue trading by Yasuo Hamanaka of the Sumitomo Corporation. After the bashing London merchant banking took as a result of the losses at Barings, these commentators seem only too willing to believe that the Japanese financial system, too, has feet of clay. But consider the facts of the Hamanaka affair.

First, there were clear management and control problems inside Sumitomo Corporation, as there were inside Barings and in Daiwa's New York branch. Despite all the talk of sophisticated risk modelling as a protection against loss, one rogue trader with access to company letterheads, scissors, paste and some knowledge of backroom practices can run rings around the traders' seniors, the auditors and regulators. Second, the idea that the Hamanaka affair is a peculiarly Japanese scandal is laughable. The only Japanese aspect of the matter is the identity of the loser on the markets and the corporation that will take the losses. As well as being victim of a rogue trader, Sumitomo has suffered from the worst practices of the City. Where does the blame for this rest? It must be partly with the old-boy-network style of regulation which despite all the post-Big Bang reforms of the City, remains the norm. Some regulators have tried to adopt a harder-nosed approach: the Securities and Futures Authority may have been slow in seeking to bring some order to the LME, but it is constrained. It faces not just buccaneer traders but markets which do not want to be regulated. It is also disadvantaged by rules which limit its jurisdiction and a non-legislative framework that makes it easy prey to legal challenge. This might not matter if the lead regulators, the Securities and Investments Board and the Bank of England, were better at their jobs. But the SIB has never willingly exercised its powers. It was only this week that it addressed insider trading in derivatives markets, even though the problem has been evident for years. Similarly, it has missed almost every target in seeking to resolve the pensions mis-selling scandal. As for the Bank, one has only to read the reports on the Barings collapse to know its problems, although it is now addressing them with some urgency. Not only instruments of regulation need changing, however, but the culture, too. Until then, London will remain a playground for sharp practice.

Price dive in US fans London fear

Dan Atkinson

STORM warnings of further turmoil on London metal markets were flashed from New York over the weekend, where the copper price hit a two-year low. Dealers had hoped for a return to normality when copper trading resumes later today, but signs from across the Atlantic suggest they may have been optimistic. Should the price plunge further today, the banks may start wholesale liquidation of their positions in order to protect against further losses. Already, precious-metal prices have been hit by the backwash from the Sumitomo trading scandal, with silver falling, briefly, below \$5 (£3) a Troy ounce.

Added to this fears of heavy sales of copper from Sumitomo, as it attempts to unwind the suicidal commitments entered by rogue trader Yasuo Hamanaka, and there is a real prospect of chaos on world metal markets. This, in turn, could hit South American copper producers in Chile and Peru and return the prices of other metals to the depression levels of the early 1990s. Nevertheless, some commodities insiders remained unruffled. "This is not going to spiral downwards," said one yesterday. He added that stocks of the metal were low and demand was firm. Furthermore, the early dive in prices on the London Metal Exchange on Friday, from \$2,155 a tonne for three-month delivery to \$1,980, had been partly reversed by the end of the day, he said, when three-month copper closed at \$1,980, a net fall of \$175. The hope, he said, was that the price would begin to recover, as it did at the start of this month after it crashed to below \$2,100 a tonne, a dive triggered by rumours that Mr Hamanaka had been sacked



World away... Miners at open cast copper mine of Chuquibambilla, Chile, are at mercy of global events PHOTOGRAPH: R. DIESEL

or demoted. "[The] feeling in the market is the panic is over," he said, although, he added, "the market could be scarred for a while." However, Friday's close in New York suggests there could be more trouble ahead, despite the junior role played by American copper dealers, by comparison with their London colleagues. Ten per cent was wiped off the copper price in the US, taking it to a 25-month low. Sumitomo has not disclosed its total market exposure, but has pledged "to continue trading and make efforts to stabilise the market". Sumitomo also said it has no immediate plans to liquidate its long copper positions. Meanwhile, the Sumitomo affair may help explain puzzling figures for Japanese copper demand recorded in the early spring. Japan allows some metals to be imported duty-free from certain developing nations at the start of each Japanese financial year (the year begins on April 1). This year, zinc imports surged, but copper shipments did not. At the time, brokers T. Hoare suggested this reflected "less the lack of industrial activity in Japan than the expectation of lower prices and plentiful availability later in the year". In retrospect, it could well have been that Japanese insiders were well aware of the heavy commitments being run up by Mr Hamanaka and anticipated the copper price slide certain to follow his exposure. Should this be borne out by subsequent disclosures, it will add to the speculation as to who knew what, and when. The scandal is already causing soul-searching about business ethics in Japan, with chief cabinet secretary, Seirō-oku Kajiyama, declaring: "The moral atmosphere, and people have become desensitised towards money."

which people didn't want answering. He was side-lined, shunned, and it was none to subtle," said the broker, who asked not to be named. "We knew the LME itself did not like him and we knew the market's biggest player didn't like him, either. The natural extension was that you stopped doing business." Mr Threlkeld, who still runs a small metals trading operation based in Vermont, wrote a letter — reported in

Whistleblower 'was blackballed'

Paul Murphy

DAVID Threlkeld, the American trader who warned the London Metal Exchange five years ago that Yasuo Hamanaka might be falsifying his accounts at Sumitomo, was "blackballed" by the London metal trading community, according to the head of one member broking firm. "He was raising questions

the Guardian on Saturday — to LME chief executive David King in November 1991, explaining how Mr Hamanaka was creating false records for 80,000 tonnes of copper worth more than \$200 million. Through his firm, DLT, Mr Threlkeld was an associate member of the LME until 1992, when the British end of his dealing operation, DLT (London), folded. Mr Threlkeld said in a statement yesterday: "By ex-

pressing my concerns I was hurt financially. I tried to make contact with Sumitomo [again] earlier this year to discuss our outstanding business problem. "I was unable to discuss the situation with Sumitomo directly, although I did receive a communication, asking me to elaborate on my concerns, from their New York attorney, DLT & Co Inc, who have retained counsel and we are trying to resolve the matter."

Third, little note has been taken of the consequences of the affair at the supply end of the commodity chain. The convulsions may have enriched investors in hedge funds who bet against Sumitomo positions and brokers in London like Winchester Commodities (until recently run by Monte Carlo-based dealer Charles Vincent) but it has unfortunate effects on produc-

Penniless BR seeks £400m debt bail-out

Keith Harper
Transport Editor

BITISH Rail has fired a final privatisation salvo at the Government by refusing to sign off its annual accounts because it could be liable for hidden debts of up to £400 million for which it has no money. John Welsby, BR's chairman, has told Transport Secretary Sir George Young that, without any guarantees from ministers, he cannot complete his annual report. The rail sell-off has left BR penniless but it is still liable for certain debts. These include underwriting Channel tunnel rail passenger and freight services, claims from former staff forced to retire through illness and certain other back-up costs. The dispute has delayed preparation of the annual report, due to be published next month. The gagging order imposed by the Government on BR to smooth the flo-

not been thoroughly thought through by ministers." Among BR's principal assets was £500 million worth of rolling stock which was eventually sold to three leasing companies. The rest of BR's empire is evaporating as 100 departments move into the private sector. BR will officially cease to exist in October next year when Mr Welsby's contract expires. But if Labour wins the next election he could stay on as a caretaker chairman while BR is reorganised. The Government is still trying to sell the entire rail network before the election. Its main concern will be to dispose of the remaining 18 passenger franchise operations, which include ScotRail, the West Coast main line and the rural network. The most difficult of these franchises are the five metropolitan networks run by city councils. These will require considerable underpinning which the Government may not have sufficient money to fund.

Sock Shops to fit inside Jumper

Ian King

SOCK SHOP, the best known name in Stephen Hinchliffe's crashed Facia retail empire, was sold yesterday, alongside luggage chain Saltsbury's and Red or Dead, in series of deals which will safeguard 1,100 jobs. KPMG, leading receiver to Facia — which collapsed at the start of the month with debts of more than £30 million — yesterday outlined details of the sales, which should preserve some familiar high street names. Around 75 outlets of Sock Shop have been sold, for a "substantial" but undisclosed sum, to Lancashire-based retailer Jumper Ltd. Also sold was Contessa, Britain's biggest specialist lingerie retailer, with 80 outlets of 120 outlets going to Chancerealm, the group headed by Theo Phaphitis, who two years ago snapped

up the Ryman's stationary chain. The Red or Dead fashion chain has been sold to its founders and former owners, Wayne and Gerardine Hemmingsway. Meanwhile, on Saturday 52 branches of Saltsbury's, the handbag and jewellery chain, were sold to Carlton International, the luggage manufacturer. The sale comes a week after the Swiss-based Minit chain bought 39 Saltsbury's stores, leaving another 80 to be sold by Grant Thornton, the chain's receiver. Announcing the sales, KPMG's Tony Thompson said Oakland, the men's fashion chain, and Torq, the jewellery business, had yet to be sold. He added: "We are very pleased to have saved so many jobs and preserved such well-known high street names. We have now sold the bulk of the Facia Group retail outlets and it appears likely that secured creditors will be paid in full."

AT&T calls on high-speed phone users

Nicholas Bannister
Technology Editor

AT&T, the world's second-largest telecommunications company, is due to launch its attack on British Telecom's huge residential market next month. The initial package will be aimed at people with phone bills of more than £100 a quarter — often those who make a lot of international calls and use their phones for more than just person-to-person calls. The offers are expected to appeal to high spenders who use value-added services, spend a lot of time on the Internet or have equipment linked to the phone, such as a fax machine. In the autumn, AT&T intends to begin its drive to get freephone services accepted by companies and consumers as a basic business practice. David Quinn, marketing director of AT&T Communications UK, said that freephone services, where the person receiving the call pays for it, were much used in the US.

News in brief

China and US face trade war

Chinese and US negotiators were last night still trying to stave off a multi-billion dollar trade war over copyright piracy. The far-reaching trade sanctions will come into force today unless the two sides resolve their differences over the protection of intellectual property rights in China. At talks in Beijing, US negotiators were demanding closure of more Chinese factories pirating films, music and computer software.

Heavy lorry blues

Sales of heavy lorries are set to slump again following a fairly short-lived recovery from the doldrums of the last recession, forecasters warn today. Truck production and sales dipped sharply at the beginning of the 1990s before enjoying a recovery in the past two-to-three years. Sales of UK trucks above six tonnes are also likely to fall between 1996 and 1998 before rising again by the year 2001, says DRI/McGraw Hill.

Compass buys French

Compass, Britain's biggest contract caterer, has entered an agreement to take control of Eurest France, France's third largest contract caterer, in which it currently has a 67 per cent stake. Compass will pay Fr590 million (£76.3 million) to French group Sodexo for its 33.34 per cent stake in Eurest, and a further Fr2.8 million to Epargne for its 0.16 per cent stake.

Tourist rates — bank sells

Australia 1.89	France 7.69	Italy 2.336	Singapore 2.11
Austria 19.96	Germany 2.2725	Libya 0.5425	South Africa 6.42
Belgium 46.69	Greece 363.53	Netherlands 2.5475	Spain 191.75
Canada 2.05	Hong Kong 11.58	New Zealand 2.2225	Sweden 10.12
Cyprus 0.6995	India 53.37	Norway 9.1	Switzerland 1.825
Denmark 8.81	Ireland 0.9425	Qatar 335.52	Turkey 117.112
Finland 7.12	Israel 5.00	Saudi Arabia 5.72	US 1.9000

Rugby League

Super League: Castleford 26, Bradford 23

Botica revises Tigers' views

Paul Fitzpatrick

RECENT crowds at Castleford — two under 4,000 and another below 3,000 — had suggested that Wheldon Road was one place where summer rugby was not working. But Tigers' fans were not so sure after revising their views after this marvellous advertisement for Super League.

For Castleford to negotiate but they deserved their victory. For Bradford, their first defeat since Wembley will have come as a blow to any aspirations they had for the title. As it is, they might now have to settle for a top-four place.

Goulding races to fastest ton

BOBBY GOULDING, the St Helens captain, last night completed the fastest century of goals from the start of a domestic season.

one the previous best of 18 matches shared by four players, Oldham's Bernard Ganley (1957), Salford's David Watkins (1972), Featherstone's Steve Quinn (1974) and Keighley's John Wainwright (1983).



Double up... Porsche's 911 GT1, left, came second and the other, driven by Yannick Dalmas, Karl Wendlinger and Scott Goodyear, third.

Racing

Hills good value to be top man at Ascot

From Cox

FRANKIE DETTORI will be much missed at Royal Ascot this week. His enforced absence through injury has made Mick Kinane a raging hot favourite at 13-8 on to win the London Clubs Trophy, but the race to be top jockey is surely more open than Coral's betting suggests.

tempting is the 33-1 about Michael Hills. The Derby-winning jockey is riding on the crest of a wave at present and John Robertson, his agent, has been busy compiling a quality book of rides over the next four days.

great form. So is First Island. Geoff Wragg is keen to try him over a mile and a quarter again and he by-passes the Queen Anne Stakes in favour of the Prince of Wales's.

Queen Mary Stakes on Wednesday," continued Robertson. "But there is a chance her owner might want Cash Assmusen."

Handicap) are longshots, although Robertson says Shenango is an improving sort who has been working well recently.

Windsor evening card with form

Table of racing results for Windsor evening card, including race numbers, names, and times.

Table of racing results for Brighton, including race numbers, names, and times.

Pontefract tonight

Table of racing results for Pontefract tonight, including race numbers, names, and times.

Musselburgh

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Motor Racing

Joest win Le Mans

PORSCHE scored a one-two-three in the Le Mans 24-hour race which finished yesterday.

The race was won in style by a Porsche-powered Joest, based on a 1991 Jaguar XJ14 with the roof removed. It was entered to victory by a virtual league of nations: Germany's Manuel Reuter, Austria's Alexander Wurz and America's Davey Jones, who was in the driving seat for the final stint.

"We were ahead of a works car for almost 24 hours, it's incredible," said Reuter, who won Le Mans in 1985 for Mercedes. It was a third triumph for the German team Joest, following wins in 1984 and 1985.

"For a private team to win Le Mans two times was very lucky," the team owner Reinhold Joest said. "But winning it a third time proves that we must be doing it right."

Porsche's new 911 GT1s took second and third. Germany's Hans Stuck, Belgium's Thierry Boutsen and France's Bob Wollek had taken the lead several times during the night but were overtaken by Joest.

The three-times Formula One champion Nelson Piquet on his Le Mans debut finished eighth in a McLaren after mechanical problems. "I thought it would be like holidays but it was not, it was exhausting," the Brazilian said.

Large advertisement for 'Blacks' featuring 'The Guardian Athletics' and 'Stephen Bierley'. Includes text like 'No more 100 me' and 'All black for men in blue'.

Advertisement for 'Fessey detained' featuring 'RAGELINE' and 'MUSSELS/GH WINDSOR'. Includes phone number '0930 1681'.

Handwritten signature or scribble at the bottom of the page.

Handwritten signature or mark in a box.

Athletics

Stephen Bierley on the winners and the also-rans at the weekend's Olympic trials in Birmingham and a record tussle at 400 metres

Black sticks needle in Ladejo

THE men's 400 metres had always been billed as the top attraction of the British Olympic trials and so, most marvellously, it proved.

be the British record holder again," said Black, who last held it in 1986. Ladejo responded immediately by saying that Black "would not hold the record for long."

Ladejo, who had held on to Black down the back straight, at least clinched his Atlantic flight, the first two in each event at the trials being assured of an Olympic place provided they had the necessary time or distance.

The first four runners all broke 45 seconds. Fourth-placed Jamie Baulch will get a place in the 400m relay squad, as will Mark Richardson, Britain's leading one-lap runner last season, who on this occasion could finish only fifth.

Saturday," said the 30-year-old Black. The previous record of 44.47 was set just under four years ago at the Barcelona Games by Dave Grindley, who missed these trials because of injury.

eggs in the 800m basket. Holmes won the two-lap event in 1min 37.84sec, the fastest time in the world this year.



Top-notch... Sally Gunnell in action in the 400m hurdles

No more 100 metres says Carl Lewis after finishing last in US trials

THE OLYMPIC flame is down to a flicker for Carl Lewis. Twice 100 metres champion and holder of eight gold medals, he struggled home last behind Dennis Mitchell's 9.92sec at the US Olympic trials in Atlanta yesterday.

Michael Marsh, the Olympic 200m champion, was second in 10.00 and Jon Drummond third in 10.01.

finishing eighth in 10.21, the 1984 and 1988 Olympic champion conceded that his 100m days were over.

100m, and Jackie Joyner-Kersey, the heptathlon world-record holder, lost to an American for the first time since 1983.

Saturday," said the 30-year-old Black. The previous record of 44.47 was set just under four years ago at the Barcelona Games by Dave Grindley, who missed these trials because of injury.

eggs in the 800m basket. Holmes won the two-lap event in 1min 37.84sec, the fastest time in the world this year.

whether or not he will be in Atlanta defending his Olympic 100m title. He won the event on Saturday and then, in the 200m yesterday, finished second to John Regis with the same time of 20.54.

ally I think I have a real chance of making the final in the time," he said.

Rugby Union

New Zealand 62
Scotland 31

All black for men in blue

RICHIE DIXON, the Scotland coach, yesterday called for an overhaul of club rugby north of the border in the first Test in Dundee, a game that illustrated the widening gulf between the two hemispheres.

A week after Wales were heavily beaten in the first Test against Australia, Scotland conceded nine tries on Saturday. Dixon said: "No club can go it alone. What is needed is for districts to have separate sponsors and to channel talent through them."

Dixon praised the Scotland, even though the tourists conceded 11 points more than in their previous worst Test defeat, also against the All Blacks, at Murrayfield in 1989.

But he admitted: "We still have problems in the front three against what is a huge New Zealand front row."

Christian Cullen was Scotland's nemesis as the full-back, playing only his second match for the All Blacks, scored four tries in a brilliant display.

Scotland's captain Rob Wainwright conceded afterwards: "This was the fastest Test that I have ever played in. I hope that this style gets back to Europe."

Dixon also conceded that the back three was another problem area. The wing Derek Stark, the centre Tony Stanger and the 21-year-old prop Barry Stewart therefore have the chance to press their claims for a place in the second Test in Auckland next Saturday when they play against Bay of Plenty inRotorua tomorrow.

Stark will play his first game since straining a hamstring in the match against Waikato while on the other wing, Scotland give the tour replacement Cameron Glasgow his first game.

The All Blacks, meanwhile, have recalled the centre Walter Little for the second Test. He replaces Waikato's Scott McLeod in New Zealand's only change. Little was ruled out of Saturday's Test by a recurring hamstring strain.

Wales arrived in Melbourne yesterday adamant that the Neath No. 8 Steve Williams, one of the successes of their tour, will be fit for the second Test against the Wallabies on Saturday.

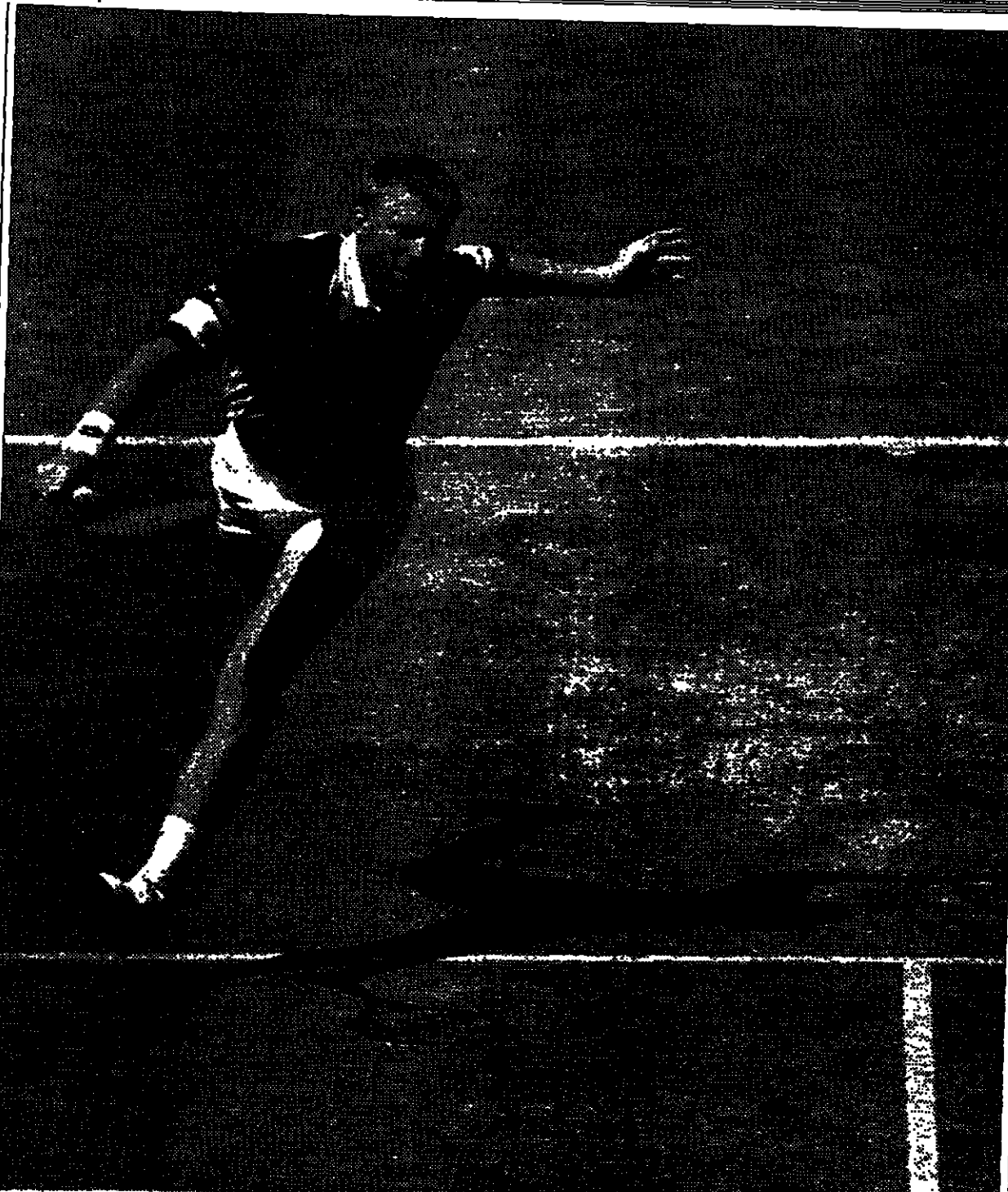
Williams was forced off with rib damage during the 49-3 victory over New South Wales Country in the Outback town of Moree on Saturday.

"It is just bruising. Steve will be okay by Saturday," said the tour manager Terry Cobner. "Hemi Taylor has a cut mouth but didn't need any stitches and will also be fine for the Test in Sydney."

The tourists, beaten 56-25 in the first Test, took to the spa waters for a "recovery" session before leaving Moree.

"The spa waters speed up the recovery process for knocks and bruises so we were grateful for the chance for a session in the pools," said Cobner.

The Cardiff wing Simon Hill boosted his chances of a Test place. He has scored four tries in four games, including one of Wales's seven on Saturday. His fellow wing Iwan Evans celebrated his MBE with the first after 13 minutes as Wales completed only the second win of their tour in heavy mud and rain, conditions more akin to South Wales than New South Wales.



Bouncing back... Becker on his way to victory over Edberg in a joyous final at Queen's

Tennis

Becker crowned in volleying jewel

David Irvine at Queen's

NEITHER of the last two Stella Artois Championship finals produced a service break "but that," said the dooms-mongers, "is how grass court tennis is now." Thankfully the tedious, serve-dominated pattern was broken yesterday with a splendidly positive jewel in the sun as Boris Becker celebrated the 11th anniversary of his first title here by defeating his long-time rival Stefan Edberg 6-4, 7-6.

It was a disappointing end to the Swede's spirited challenge—he had already defied the rankings and put out Goran Ivanisevic, Todd Martin and Thomas Muster—on his final appearance. Yet his other defeats by the German at Queen's in 1988 and 1990 were the prelude to his two Wimbledon victories, so he has no real cause to feel downhearted.

After the 92-minute match ended Edberg told Becker he hoped to see him on court again in two weeks. "No," said Becker. "Three." And while it might be stretching credibility to suggest these two could play a fourth Wimbledon final, the Swede's resurgence here has suggested he will be a threat.

Tomorrow's meeting of the

Wimbledon seeding committee may be drawn into a long debate as to whether Edberg should be included. It must be hoped the two will end up in opposite halves of the draw. Becker would not wish to play him early on and it was a measure of the German's respect that he admitted he had to raise his game to register his 25th win in their 35 contests since 1984.

"You have been a rival, a friend and someone who has shared the spotlight with me for a long time," he said. "And surely the best ambassador I have ever seen for tennis." That brought a roar of applause from the packed crowd on Centre Court. Edberg, who insists he will retire in November, has been special in a world increasingly dominated by greed and his passing will be mourned.

Becker has now matched John McEnroe's four titles here, although it took the American only six years. More importantly, the standard of play was a heartening reminder that attractive tennis can be produced on grass. Winning volleys outnumbered aces by three to one.

For the first six games there was little to choose between the two. In the seventh Edberg faltered and allowed Becker to edge ahead with a cleverly guided backhand pass. Edberg missed his

chance to get back in the next game when Becker, whose serve had been strangely restrained, unleashed one at 123mph. After 35 minutes Becker was a set ahead.

It was equally tight in the second with the crowd at fever pitch as Edberg had a set point at 5-4 with a rare backhand winner. Becker's response came with his sixth ace. Whenever I had a chance he would come up with a big serve," said Edberg ruefully. "That was probably the difference between us."

Stunned by two great forehand returns from Becker the Swede then lost his serve to love, only to level courageously in the 12th. It was beyond the tie-break and, as he put it, Becker was then "off and away". A blistering forehand return gave Becker three match points. He needed only one. The 46th title of his career was sealed.

It was a perfect end to a week of perfect weather and other high-quality matches. The attendance record was broken, the final tally falling just short of 50,000.

Richey Reneberg took the £44,250 Heineken Open at Rosmalen yesterday with a 6-4, 6-0 victory over the world No. 129 Stephane Simian. The 30-year-old American dominated the 59-minute final.

McGrath top-spin upsets Tauziat's drive and puts at risk her seat to Sussex

Richard Jago in Birmingham

MEREDITH McGRATH yesterday proved herself to be dangerous enough to influence this year's Wimbledon championship by unexpectedly capturing the DFS Classic at the Edgbaston Priory Club, seeing off the third of the leading seeds in succession.

The Switzerland-based American followed successes over Natalia Zvereva and Brenda Schultz-McCarthy by defeating the No. 2 seed and holder, Nathalie Tauziat of France. She did so by recovering from a set and a break-point down to win 2-6, 6-4, 6-4.

The win, however, could conceivably have lost her a lift down to the Eastbourne tournament which starts today. "We were planning

to share the journey down there, so I hope there's still a seat in the car," said McGrath with a smile and looking remarkably chipper after a 2½-hour match containing some lengthy rallies and played under a relentless sun.

Twice in the vital sixth game of the final set McGrath also had to endure irritating freaks that contributed to her losing her break of serve.

First her backhand drive struck a net cord and popped up for Tauziat to play a volley which also took a net cord but went for a winner.

But the underdog McGrath, despite those discouragements and a disconcerting start to the match during which she continually overhit the baseline, became more potent as the contest wore on. Her timing improved and, when that happened, her fierce top-spin applied increasing pressure to the elegant flow of Tauziat's more traditional drive.

McGrath's victory was the third tour title of her career but, remarkably, it was the first time in seven visits that she had won a match at Birmingham.

"I just came here wanting to win one match and I won six. If I get good draws in the next couple of weeks I think I can do some damage," she said.

Tauziat bemoaned the lack of penetration in her serve and pointed out that she tried towards the end but she said she was looking forward to defending her Eastbourne title. "Though I'm not sure about sharing that lift," she added.

Sailing

Peyron fast but precarious

Bob Fisher in Plymouth sees the defending champion racing towards Rhode Island

LOICK PEYRON, in Fujicolor II, led a phalanx of French trimarans from the start of the Europe 1 single-handed transatlantic race on a 10-mile reach to the Eddystone lighthouse. Peyron topped 28 knots steadily with his 60-foot multihull, carving through the flat sea in 15-16 knots of easterly breeze.

The offshore trimarans are powerful and no one demonstrated their speed potential better than Peyron, who won this race when it was held four years ago. Lifting the weather hull and centre hull out of the water, Fujicolor II looked precariously balanced but magnificently fast.

Fifty-eight boats started but Peyron crossed the line first on the eastern side of the committee boat. The pale grey hulls of Fujicolor II sliced through the water, spearheading the fleet to the Eddystone, 10 nautical miles away.

Just 23 minutes later, Peyron bore away around the lighthouse and soon set a bigger reaching headsail on his way west to the Scillies. He had averaged 26 knots from the start. Almost two minutes elapsed before the favourite, Laurent Bourgnon in Prima-gaz, went past the light and 2½ more before Paul Varine in Haute Normandie and

Francis Joyon in Banque Populaire went by.

The 80ft monohulls were led by Yves Parlier in Aquitaine Innovations. Parlier rounded the Eddystone in 36 minutes, averaging 16½ knots and was two minutes ahead of Gerry Rofuis in Group LG. The first English skipper was Josh Hall, on Garmore Managers, three minutes behind Rofuis in third place.

Dmitry Berezkin and Eugene Burnatov of Russia are the new 47th European Champions, Britain's Olympic pair, John Merricks and Ian Walker were third at the end of the series held at Hayling Island. Bethan Raggatt and Sue Carr were sixth in the women's event, which was won by Rudana Taran and Elena Peholchik of the Ukraine.

Sport in brief

Soccer

Mick McCarthy's Republic of Ireland team won their first game in eight matches under their new manager when they comfortably beat Bolivia 3-0 in New Jersey.

The 20-year-old Norwich striker Keith O'Neill scored twice in the US Cup tie at the Giants Stadium and the 18-year-old Leeds defender Ian Harte headed the third.

McCarthy, who took over from Jack Charlton in February, said after the game: "It feels better than getting beat. I'm enjoying what I'm doing. I'm enjoying the fact that we have new, fresh faces. I'll be happy with 50 per cent of Jack's success."

Golf

The South African Relief Goosen, the leader from the first day, won the inaugural £300,000 Challenge by two shots yesterday, resisting a

strong challenge by Ross Drummond.

The Scot, nine strokes adrift overnight, saved a shot off the course record of 68. He eagled the 4th, birdied the next four holes, dropped his only shot of the day at the 9th and birdied the 10th and 12th. But Goosen kept his head despite dropping three shots in the 13th and 14th. A final round of 72 finally ended Drummond's charge.

Boxing

Roy Jones warmed up for his title fight on Saturday night's by playing in a professional basketball game for the US Basketball League's Jacksonville Barracudas in the afternoon, then easily retained his International Boxing Federation super-middleweight title by stopping the unrated Canadian journeyman Eric Lucas after 11 rounds.

Cricket

Australian officials have denied reports that the 87-year-old Sir Donald Bradman, the

sport's most prolific batsman, was in failing health after a recent stroke.

Motorsport

Frank Biela, the touring car championship leader, was disqualified from round 12 at Snetterton for a breach of driving rules after an accident which ended the Honda driver David Leslie's involvement in the race. Biela, who finished sixth but received no points, still leads the championship by 49 points on 134.

American Football

Roger Ruzek kicked a 37-yard field goal with just over three minutes left to give London Monarchs victory over Rhein Fire at Stamford Bridge in their final World League game of the season. The Monarchs' fourth win of the campaign condemned Fire to bottom place in the six-team league. The Scottish Claymores finished with the best overall record and next Frankfurt Galaxy in next Sunday's World Bowl at Murrayfield in Edinburgh.

Chess

Karpov wins again as black

NATOLY KARPOV opened a 4-2 lead in the FIDE world championship at Elista when he crushed his American challenger Gata Kamsky in only 29 moves, writes Leonard Barden.

Observers were astonished at the ease with which the 45-year-old Russian, more than 20 years older than Kamsky, scored his second win with black in the 20-game match. He chose the cautious Petroff Defence but play sharpened and Kamsky's mildly short of time, cracked at move 27. The seventh game is tomorrow.

White Kamsky, Black Karpov, Game 7: 1. e4 e5 2. Nf3 Nf6 3. d4 d5 4. Bc4 Bc5 5. d5 Nf6 6. Nc3 Bb7 7. Bb5 Bc8 8. Bxc6 Bxc6 9. g4 Nc3 10. h4 Nf6 11. Nf3 Nf6 12. Qe2 Qd7 13. Qf3 Qd7 14. Qg3 Qd7 15. Qh4 Qd7 16. Qg3 Qd7 17. Qf3 Qd7 18. Qg3 Qd7 19. Qh4 Qd7 20. Qg3 Qd7 21. Qf3 Qd7 22. Qg3 Qd7 23. Qh4 Qd7 24. Qg3 Qd7 25. Qf3 Qd7 26. Qg3 Qd7 27. Qh4 Qd7 28. Qg3 Qd7 29. Qf3 Qd7 30. Qg3 Qd7 31. Qh4 Qd7 32. Qg3 Qd7 33. Qf3 Qd7 34. Qg3 Qd7 35. Qh4 Qd7 36. Qg3 Qd7 37. Qf3 Qd7 38. Qg3 Qd7 39. Qh4 Qd7 40. Qg3 Qd7 41. Qf3 Qd7 42. Qg3 Qd7 43. Qh4 Qd7 44. Qg3 Qd7 45. Qf3 Qd7 46. Qg3 Qd7 47. Qh4 Qd7 48. Qg3 Qd7 49. Qf3 Qd7 50. Qg3 Qd7 51. Qh4 Qd7 52. Qg3 Qd7 53. Qf3 Qd7 54. Qg3 Qd7 55. Qh4 Qd7 56. Qg3 Qd7 57. Qf3 Qd7 58. Qg3 Qd7 59. Qh4 Qd7 60. Qg3 Qd7 61. Qf3 Qd7 62. Qg3 Qd7 63. Qh4 Qd7 64. Qg3 Qd7 65. Qf3 Qd7 66. Qg3 Qd7 67. Qh4 Qd7 68. Qg3 Qd7 69. Qf3 Qd7 70. Qg3 Qd7 71. Qh4 Qd7 72. Qg3 Qd7 73. Qf3 Qd7 74. Qg3 Qd7 75. Qh4 Qd7 76. Qg3 Qd7 77. Qf3 Qd7 78. Qg3 Qd7 79. Qh4 Qd7 80. Qg3 Qd7 81. Qf3 Qd7 82. Qg3 Qd7 83. Qh4 Qd7 84. Qg3 Qd7 85. Qf3 Qd7 86. Qg3 Qd7 87. Qh4 Qd7 88. Qg3 Qd7 89. Qf3 Qd7 90. Qg3 Qd7 91. Qh4 Qd7 92. Qg3 Qd7 93. Qf3 Qd7 94. Qg3 Qd7 95. Qh4 Qd7 96. Qg3 Qd7 97. Qf3 Qd7 98. Qg3 Qd7 99. Qh4 Qd7 100. Qg3 Qd7 101. Qf3 Qd7 102. Qg3 Qd7 103. Qh4 Qd7 104. Qg3 Qd7 105. Qf3 Qd7 106. Qg3 Qd7 107. Qh4 Qd7 108. Qg3 Qd7 109. Qf3 Qd7 110. Qg3 Qd7 111. Qh4 Qd7 112. Qg3 Qd7 113. Qf3 Qd7 114. Qg3 Qd7 115. Qh4 Qd7 116. Qg3 Qd7 117. Qf3 Qd7 118. Qg3 Qd7 119. Qh4 Qd7 120. Qg3 Qd7 121. Qf3 Qd7 122. Qg3 Qd7 123. Qh4 Qd7 124. Qg3 Qd7 125. Qf3 Qd7 126. Qg3 Qd7 127. Qh4 Qd7 128. Qg3 Qd7 129. Qf3 Qd7 130. Qg3 Qd7 131. Qh4 Qd7 132. Qg3 Qd7 133. Qf3 Qd7 134. Qg3 Qd7 135. Qh4 Qd7 136. Qg3 Qd7 137. Qf3 Qd7 138. Qg3 Qd7 139. Qh4 Qd7 140. Qg3 Qd7 141. Qf3 Qd7 142. Qg3 Qd7 143. Qh4 Qd7 144. Qg3 Qd7 145. Qf3 Qd7 146. Qg3 Qd7 147. Qh4 Qd7 148. Qg3 Qd7 149. Qf3 Qd7 150. Qg3 Qd7 151. Qh4 Qd7 152. Qg3 Qd7 153. Qf3 Qd7 154. Qg3 Qd7 155. Qh4 Qd7 156. Qg3 Qd7 157. Qf3 Qd7 158. Qg3 Qd7 159. Qh4 Qd7 160. 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EURO 96: ENGLAND'S OPENING WIN LEAVES SCOTLAND FACING AN EARLY EXIT



Yellow peril... Paul Gascoigne is swamped by England team-mates after the goal that ensured victory over Scotland at Wembley on Saturday

PHOTOGRAPH: FRANK BARON

Group A: England 2, Scotland 0

A rousing change of tempo

Commentary

David Lacey

IF SUCCESS in major tournaments is largely a matter of waking up at the right moment, then England can be congratulated on their sense of timing. Just as the bad dream was threatening to recur, Terry Venables' team received their alarm call. They should not, however, expect a Continental breakfast in bed. Having drawn 1-1 with Switzerland and beaten Scotland 2-0, the same result as in their previous meeting in 1989, England are more or less where they hoped to be after the opening week of the European Championship. They lead Group A because they have scored one goal more than Holland, so a draw

with the Dutch tomorrow night would be enough to ensure that they stay top and remain at Wembley for the quarter-finals. Things are getting better for England, despite the somnambulist tendencies which characterised their second half against the Swiss and their first against the Scots. Their superior approach work is at last being matched by the sort of finishing which has now brought Alan Shearer two excellent goals. And just when it seemed that even Venables must realise he had mistaken the fatted calf for the prodigal son, Paul Gascoigne scored one of the best goals of the tournament. David Seaman again proved England's saviour. Having denied Grassi a late winner for Switzerland, he saved the penalty from McAllister which might well have preserved Scottish hopes of a place in the last eight. Essentially, however, Eng-

land are where they are because their pace is at last being geared to McManaman rather than Gascoigne. When this happens Shearer is much more likely to receive the sort of quick, early centres he needs. For half the match England believed they were getting somewhere with patient possession football but, when foreign teams do this, they do not reduce the pace at which the ball is moved around the field. At Wembley the ball plopped dully from one pair of English feet to another when it was not being given away. Scotland had even less pace but, because their movement was more intelligent, they appeared to be performing at a higher tempo and had, in Tosh McKinlay, the only man capable of turning a flank. After 45 minutes Craig Brown's players cheerily sprinted away while England trudged off in

their wake and a disco-jockey with a waspish sense of humour selected "Togatta". Venables then took off Pearce, for whom this is already looking like one tournament too many, moved Southgate to left-back and brought Redknapp into midfield. McManaman, moved to the right to link up with his Liverpool team-mate, was a man revived. In the 53rd minute Anderton, ignoring Sheringham's lone presence on the left, passed to Redknapp who in turn found McManaman. He drew the defence before releasing the overlapping Gary Neville. Neville's inspired centre evaded Hendry and Calderwood, and Shearer hurried in front of McKinnie to head the ball past Goram. Briefly all of England was afire; then it was Switzerland all over again. England started to see what the cameras thought they would have paid a similar

price. With one hand he managed to save Durie's far-post header from Collins's cross. Then, with 13 minutes remaining, McCall gathered McAllister's crossfield pass and fed the ball square to Durie, who was brought down by Adams. So now Seaman had to face a penalty for the second successive Saturday, this time in the knowledge that England's future in the tournament might depend upon it. A week earlier, Turkylmaz had sent the England goalkeeper the wrong way but now Seaman guessed correctly, deflecting McAllister's kick to safety with an elbow. Amid the tumult of relief, congratulation — and, for the Scots, despair — Gascoigne was largely forgotten, his only achievement of note being the fact that he had stayed on the field for the second half. Pink, he looked and portly, he had become an adornment.

Within seconds, however, Sheringham and Anderton had worked the ball forward from the left to leave Gascoigne confronting Hendry. It was a no-contest. Having flicked the ball over the centre-back's head with his left foot, Gascoigne then turned past Hendry to meet it with a stunning right-foot volley low and wide of Goram's right hand. So Tubby the Tuba, scorned by an orchestra of critics, left the arena to songs of praise. Poor Hendry, so brave and with such heart, had been drawn and quartered but they probably won't make a film about him. SCOTLAND: England: Shearer (53min), Gascoigne (76), England: Seaman, O'Neill, Adams, Pearce (62min), McCall (84), Anderton, Gascoigne, Southgate, Ince (85min), 79) McManaman, Sheringham, Shearer. Scotland: Goram, Calderwood, Hendry, Boyd, McKinnie, McCall, McAllister, Turkylmaz, McKinlay (87min), Spence, McCollet (89), Durie (90min). Referee: P. Piatto (Italy).

Gascoigne helps widen horizons

Richard Williams on a tactical switch that liberated England's enigma and exonerated Terry Venables

AS a demonstration of British style and ingenuity it was like being forced to watch a race between a Morris Marina and an Austin Allegro. Granted, the Marina had nice clean tartan seat covers, although the driver didn't seem to be able to get out of second gear. But the Allegro's rear bumper was trailing on the road, you could smell the fumes from a hole in the exhaust and there was a fat boy being sick in the back, overcome by too much Tiger and too many hot dogs, too many jokes and too much sun. The first 45 minutes of the much heralded British championship was so extraordinarily devoid of quality that you just had to hope that no one from the outside-world was watching. It cried out for the white screens that hide Terry Venables' training sessions at Bisham Abbey from the public gaze. And could Paul Gascoigne really have put on another stone in the week since the Swiss match? He looked in such bad shape that he wouldn't have made it into the pre-match veterans kick-about alongside Stan Bowles and John Robertson, neither of them exactly devotees of the SAS way of fitness training. As he sweated and strained, never quite getting to where he wanted to be, Gascoigne's presence on the field seemed to owe itself only to Terry Venables' obdurate refusal to bow to his critics. When he belted a ball into the goal, the Twin Towers shuddered. When Tosh McKinlay gently nudged him off the ball and into touch, you wanted to look away. We could all see that there was something wrong with England's first-half performance. Only Terry Venables was in a position to fix it. And even those of us who harbour the deepest reservations about his appointment must acknowledge that here, when the hour was darkest and the need most pressing, he came up with the goods. "I'm not sure England didn't plan it all," Alistair McCoist observed after an hour's reflection in defeat. "I think maybe they wanted to play the first half slow and calm, and then come at us in the second half." If that had been so, Venables certainly wasn't admitting it. But he did use the half-time break to put a revised plan into action. "We hadn't helped ourselves by playing it too narrow," he said. "We weren't keeping the ball in

midfield." Liberating Gascoigne was central to the solution. "I was sorry that we didn't pull people away from him in the first half. He was having to beat two or three people before he could do anything. I felt there was more space in the inside-left position; than on the right. That's why I changed them over." The Scots noticed the effect straight away. "In the first half we did all right," Stuart McCall said. "We had a lot of the ball and we felt comfortable, although I wouldn't go overboard. After all, we never really troubled Seaman. But after half-time McManaman got hold of the ball, ran at us, caused a bit of havoc. In fact he carved us to bits." Within minutes McManaman's efforts led to Shearer's goal. And then came the penalty, followed less than a minute later by the fat boy's thesis. "Gascoigne's goal was particularly sensational," Venables said. "Vintage Gascoigne, you might say. I was happy with his game as a whole. He was delighted. He's been under a lot of pressure. It's unfair that you expect him to help England win a competition and then proceed to slaughter him." His team-mates were also anxious to heap on the praise. "It was a wonderful goal," his homeboy Steve Stone said. "He's a fat boy, but he's great to have in the dressing-room. We can't see why he gets so much stick." Nor were his opponents, some of whom share the Ibrox dressing-room with him, reluctant to express their admiration. "That was a wonderful goal," McCoist said. "And there was no gloating afterwards. He came up and shook each Scottish player by the hand. And I believe he would have done the same if we'd won. He's a bigger man than people would think." Craig Brown and his team and his appointment must acknowledge that here, when the hour was darkest and the need most pressing, he came up with the goods. "I'm not sure England didn't plan it all," Alistair McCoist observed after an hour's reflection in defeat. "I think maybe they wanted to play the first half slow and calm, and then come at us in the second half." If that had been so, Venables certainly wasn't admitting it. But he did use the half-time break to put a revised plan into action. "We hadn't helped ourselves by playing it too narrow," he said. "We weren't keeping the ball in

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'I don't think it's possible to feel any lower than I have since the end of the match'

Patrick Glenn finds the Scotland captain Gary McAllister still suffering yesterday

ASUNDAY lie-in — at least until the press pack had passed through — could never have been more appealing to anyone than to Gary McAllister yesterday but the Scotland captain refused to give his grilling a miss. Showing as much moral fibre as he had when he volunteered to take the ultimately missed penalty that probably cost the Scots a draw at Wembley, the Leeds United midfielder spoke of the moment. "I don't think it's possible to feel any lower than I have since the end of the match," he said. "Yet at the same time I couldn't have been any higher, playing against England at Wembley. I experienced both extremes on the same day. I take full responsibility and I'm still a bit down but I'll have to pick up for the last group match against Switzerland on Tuesday. "There were 19 or 20 of us in the lounge watching TV and when Gary came in we gave him a resounding cheer and were chanting his name," said McCoist. But the pain was still visible on McAllister's normally cheery face by lunchtime yesterday, when he dismissed the fact that the ball moved slightly before he hit it and said he would carry on taking penalties. "I don't think it's possible to feel any lower than I have since the end of the match," he said. "Yet at the same time I couldn't have been any higher, playing against England at Wembley. I experienced both extremes on the same day. I take full responsibility and I'm still a bit down but I'll have to pick up for the last group match against Switzerland on Tuesday.

Romania get Uefa's sympathy vote

Stephen Bradfield

IF IT was cricket, Romania might still be in Euro 96. But without an official in the stand to watch the slow-motion replay and dispense instant justice they will be on their way home this week after a campaign that will be remembered solely for the goal that never was. The fact that the television pictures clearly showed that Dornel Munteanu's powerful shot had bounced off the underside of the crossbar and well over the line during the 1-0 defeat by Bulgaria in Group B at St James' Park last week will be of little comfort to the Romanians. Neither will the sympathy of Uefa, who reaffirmed that it cannot change a referee's decision, or in this case the failure of the match official Peter Mikkelsen and his linesmen to see what the cameras showed was blindingly obvious. Uefa was responding to a complaint by the Romanians, who have suggested that electronic devices similar to those used at Wimbledon be introduced to avoid future controversy. Their spokesman Radu Timoteu said the protest had been made in the hope that it "might prompt Uefa to find ways to eliminate such a situation occurring again". Uefa's general secretary

French polish a thin veneer

Martin Thorpe at Elland Road

THE evidence so far suggests that France would be well advised to add some substance to their style if, as one of the tournament favourites, they expect to be needed at Anfield or Wembley next weekend. A shoddy performance on Saturday leaves them needing to beat the group leaders Bulgaria tomorrow to avoid being caught by Spain, given that Javier Clemente's side should defeat the beleaguered Romanians the same day. For 65 minutes France regularly drove through Spain with the ease of a British holidaymaker. They did not create many chances but they were 1-0 up, had the match under control and a quarter-final against one of the Group A qualifiers in their sights. But then they decided to defend their lead, lost the initiative and, with five minutes to go, two vital points went as well. Perhaps Djorkaeff's 49th-minute goal had lulled the French into thinking the job of qualification was done and done. Thinking of England. But even Terry Venables' side, derided as they are for not possessing the silky skills of the top Europeans, would fancy their quarter-final chances against Aime Jacquet's team in this inconclusive form. Having scraped a victory over Romania in the first match, they demonstrated a similar inability to kill off this game. The touch and the artistry that featured heavily in France's pre-tournament publicity were there, as the

EURO 96 Group C: Russia 0, G. Klins

Group B: France 1, Spain 1

Group A: England 2, Scotland 0

Group D: Germany 2, Czech Republic 0

Group E: Netherlands 1, Yugoslavia 0

Group F: Denmark 1, Sweden 0

Group G: Italy 1, Belgium 0

Group H: Greece 0, Portugal 0

Group I: Slovakia 0, Slovenia 0

Group J: Croatia 0, Hungary 0

Group K: Romania 0, Bulgaria 0

Group L: Ukraine 0, Moldova 0

Group M: Latvia 0, Lithuania 0

Group N: Estonia 0, Finland 0

Group O: Iceland 0, Faroe Islands 0

Group P: Georgia 0, Armenia 0

Group Q: Azerbaijan 0, Kazakhstan 0

Group R: Uzbekistan 0, Kyrgyzstan 0

Group S: Tajikistan 0, Turkmenistan 0

Group T: Oman 0, Saudi Arabia 0

Group U: Yemen 0, Qatar 0

Group V: Bahrain 0, Kuwait 0

Group W: Brunei 0, Singapore 0

Group X: Malaysia 0, Indonesia 0

Group Y: Thailand 0, Vietnam 0

Group Z: Laos 0, Cambodia 0

Group AA: Myanmar 0, Philippines 0

Group AB: Timor-Leste 0, East Timor 0

Group AC: Papua New Guinea 0, Vanuatu 0

Group AD: Solomon Islands 0, New Caledonia 0

Group AE: French Polynesia 0, Tahiti 0

Group AF: Cook Islands 0, Niue 0

Group AG: Tokelau 0, Samoa 0

Group AH: Tonga 0, American Samoa 0

Group AI: Kiribati 0, Tuvalu 0

Group AJ: Nauru 0, Marshall Islands 0

Group AK: Micronesia 0, Palau 0

Group AL: Federated States of Micronesia 0, Northern Mariana Islands 0

Group AM: Guam 0, Hong Kong 0

Group AN: Macao 0, Chinese Taipei 0

Group AO: South Korea 0, North Korea 0

Group AP: Japan 0, China 0

Group AQ: Vietnam 0, Laos 0

Group AR: Cambodia 0, Thailand 0

Group AS: Myanmar 0, Philippines 0

Group AT: Timor-Leste 0, East Timor 0

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Group AV: Solomon Islands 0, New Caledonia 0

Group AW: French Polynesia 0, Tahiti 0

Group AX: Cook Islands 0, Niue 0

Group AY: Tokelau 0, Samoa 0

Group AZ: Tonga 0, American Samoa 0

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Group BB: Nauru 0, Marshall Islands 0

Group BC: Micronesia 0, Palau 0

Group BD: Federated States of Micronesia 0, Northern Mariana Islands 0

Group BE: Guam 0, Hong Kong 0

Group BF: Macao 0, Chinese Taipei 0

Group BG: South Korea 0, North Korea 0

Group BH: Japan 0, China 0

Group BI: Vietnam 0, Laos 0

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Group BK: Myanmar 0, Philippines 0

Group BL: Timor-Leste 0, East Timor 0

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Group BO: French Polynesia 0, Tahiti 0

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Group CZ: Cook Islands 0, Niue 0

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Group FR: French Polynesia 0, Tahiti 0

Group FS: Cook Islands 0, Niue 0

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Group FU: Tonga 0, American Samoa 0

Group FV: Kiribati 0, Tuvalu 0

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Group FZ: Guam 0, Hong Kong 0

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Group HA: Solomon Islands 0, New Caledonia 0

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Group IU: Nauru

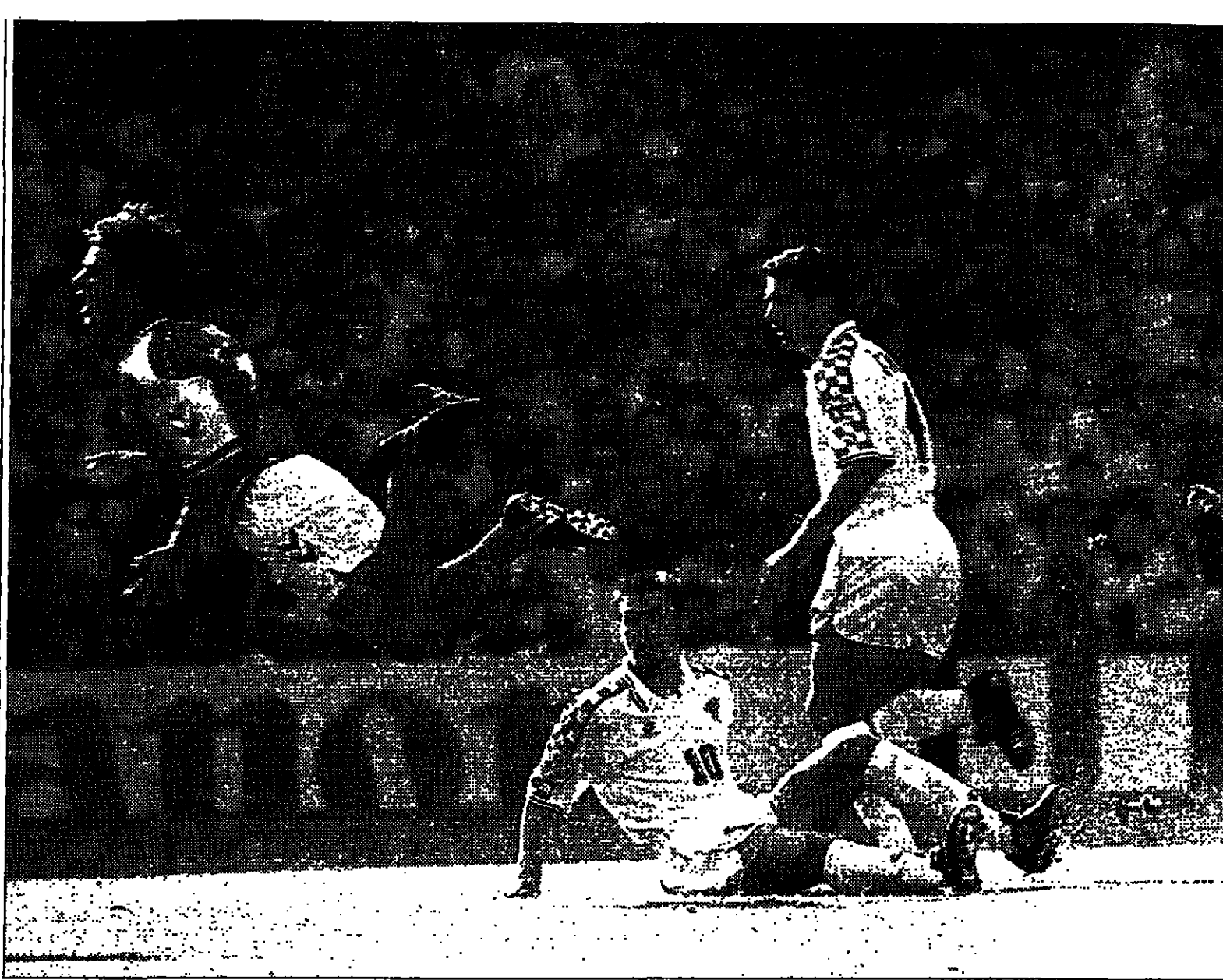
EURO 96

Group C: Russia 0, Germany 3

Klinsmann shows killer instinct

Richard Williams at Old Trafford
JURGEN Klinsmann returned in triumph to the national colours yesterday. After missing Germany's opening victory over the Czech Republic through suspension, he pulled on the captain's armband and scored two of their three second-half goals against a Russian side reduced to 10 men after the sending-off of Yuri Kovtun, their toughest defender.

by Alexander Mostovoi, who cleared to Tsybmalov, whose cross-shot came back off the post for Kolyvanov to head into Köpke's arms. When Mostovoi dribbled through the fringe of the German defence, Kolyvanov was unable to get in his shot. At this point Kolyvanov was looking the most dangerous player on the field, and Maritus Babbel was booked for bringing him down. Onopko and Oliver Bierhoff were also booked for illegal tackles later in the half.



Dane and out... Brian Laudrup takes a flier after a clash with the Croatian captain Boban as the champions fall to earth

The manner of their win can do nothing but enhance the Germans' standing as favourites. Absorbing the Russians' early efforts, they responded to the promptings of Andy Möller and increased the pressure in the second half. After their sweeper, Matthias Sammer, had opened the scoring, the Russians crumbled. More impressive going forward than in defence, Germany look capable, thanks to Klinsmann, of scoring a lot more goals in the next fortnight.

A minute later the Russians suffered a final blow when Kovtun was sent off for going through with both feet on Dieter Ehlis. Now they were easy prey for Klinsmann, whose first goal, scored after 77 minutes, was as classic an example of this striker's art as White Hart Lane ever saw. Taking a perfect pass from Bierhoff in the inside right channel, he sprinted past Yuri Nikiforov before flicking the ball past Kharin's right hand with the outside of his right boot.

Group D: Croatia 3, Denmark 0

Suker's double blow floors champions

Martin Thorpe at Hillsborough
WITH style, poise and a touch of genius Croatia started to fulfil their huge potential yesterday when the pride of this embryonic nation guaranteed themselves a place in the quarter-finals of their first major tournament.

After scoring in every qualifying game Suker was so intent on making an impression in Euro 96 that he learned English just so that he could give interviews. Now he will have plenty of opportunity. To qualify the Danes must beat Portugal. But the holders had begun well, twice getting behind their opponents' defence in the first 30 minutes with long-range through-balls to Brian Laudrup.

resolute but uninspired Danes were forced on to the back foot and, though Croatia's build-ups remained painfully slow, on reaching sight of goal they now switched up several gears. The favoured method of entry into the area was the reverse pass. Prosinecki fed 'Ljovic this way only for the hero of the win over Turkey to shoot at Schmeichel.

Having a two-goal cushion when Brian Laudrup hit the post at the other end. But Croatia finally secured their victory on 81 minutes when a slip by Reper allowed Suker to get to the left byline where his cross eluded High and Schmeichel and found Boban running in.

THE police have played a vital part so far in making Euro 96 a success, entering into the spirit of things where necessary, stopping trouble before it starts in others. Tale One: The Birmingham campsite, where apparently a police officer became the star turn in the beer-tent karaoke the other night when he got on stage and played the bagpipes to the frenzied enthusiasm of gathered Scots.

Police make hundred arrests

POLICE said yesterday they had made more than 100 arrests before and after the England versus Scotland match. Ninety-eight were held by the Metropolitan Police for offences ranging from drunkenness, ticket touting and public order matters and another nine by British Transport Police.

Weekend results

Table of weekend sports results including Soccer, Rugby League, and Golf. Soccer: US Cup 1996: Rep of Ireland 3, Bolivia 0. Rugby League: St Helens 12-10, Wigan 12-10. Golf: US Senior Open: Tom Lehman 137.

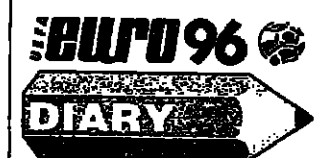
Euro 96 results

Table of Euro 96 football results. Group A: Scotland 0-0 England (2-2), Denmark 0-0 Germany (0-0). Group B: France 0-1 Spain (0-1), Netherlands 0-1 Czech Republic (0-1). Group C: Russia 0-3 Germany (0-3). Group D: Croatia 3-0 Denmark (3-0).

Baseball

Baseball results: American League: Boston 4, Texas 2. National League: Chicago 5, New York 4. MLB Finals: Game One: Seattle 6, Chicago 3.

Sweet talking failure



THE FA commercial department continue to develop their reputations as the stormtroopers of exclusive sponsorship. They employ a team of miked and ear-pieced spotters to ensure that no unlicensed sponsor gets any publicity at Euro 96 games - punters holding up placards with rival companies names on, and so on.

THERE were always going to be language problems at Euro 96 and one Spanish fan is keenly aware of it. He sought directions in Leeds for a nearby hotel - "un hotel por favor" - which may mean a small family hotel in Spanish but something very different in Leeds. He was mistakenly sent to a Victorian hostel for the homeless in the south of the city that has only five residents because it is closing down.

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Motor Racing

Motor racing results: Canadian Grand Prix: D. Hill 1st, Williams 2nd. British Grand Prix: Williams 1st, Williams 2nd. Formula 1: Williams 1st, Williams 2nd.

Q13: Who made a record number of 96 appearances for England between 1977 and 1990? ticket

A13: Linda Curl. With 59 caps she has made the most international appearances by a woman. ticket

AAA CHAMPIONSHIPS/OLYMPIC TRIALS. Finalists: Alan Jones, Steve Scaife, Alan Jones, Steve Scaife.

Cricket. Second XI Championship: Essex 1st, Essex 2nd.

Flying the flag for England. Vehicle Rescue £29.50. 0800 000 111. Official Sponsor of the England Football Team.

